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Report  
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1 March 1947.

From: Commander Crittenden B. TAYLOR, USN, (100724).  
To: Commander in Chief Pacific and U. S. Pacific Fleet.  
Subject: Report of Inspection of Military Government Units in  
Marianas Area conducted by Cdr. C. B. Taylor, USN.  
Reference: (a) Cincpacflt TAD orders serial P1037 of 30 Dec. 1946.  
Enclosure: (A) Subject Report.

1. In accordance with reference (a), an inspection of  
Military Government Units in the Marianas Area was conducted during  
the period 6 January to 23 February 1947.

(A). 2. A report of subject inspection is submitted as enclosure

*C. B. Taylor*  
C.B. TAYLOR

REPORT OF INSPECTION OF MILIT GOVT UNITS IN MARIANAS AREA  
CONDUCTED BY COMDR. C. B. TAYLOR, U.S.N., PERIOD 6 JAN -  
23 FEB. 1947

This tour covered approximately 11,000 miles and was made by plane, ship, motor launch and native boat. No special transportation was asked for or provided as it was felt that by using the existing means of transportation a better knowledge of the difficulties could be obtained.

Four days were spent on Saipan during which time several general tours of the island were made, villages visited and native businesses examined.

The conditions on Saipan are well known and will not be covered in this report, the only comment being that the natives have if anything been given too much help and are too dependent on governmental assistance.

Return was made to Guam by plane and after a four day wait in Guam passage was taken on LSM 443 to Ulithi and Yap. Also as passengers were forty five pigs for delivery to Koror.

Nine days were spent on Yap during which time the entire island was covered mainly on foot and villages were visited, USCC facilities examined, a school dedication, chief's meeting and a trial attended.

The Yapese are the most primitive of the entire area but are cheerful, cooperative and reasonably intelligent. The new command had not had much opportunity to institute new methods but jurisdiction over certain offenses was turned over to the chiefs and every effort was being made to get the chiefs to accept more responsibility.

The school dedication was very impressive and well attended. The children stood at attention and sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" while the American flag was raised and then gave the oath of allegiance, both being done in English.

There is an abundance of native food growing wild on the island and except for luxury items the Yapese should never need assistance in the food line.

The amount of trade goods was very low and the selection poor. There is only one USCC employee on the island. Soap making machinery has been reclaimed and should be in operation by now. With the increased income due to the raise in copra price it is imperative that trade goods be supplied or the native will have no incentive to work.

The morale of the service personnel has increased considerable. At the request of the Commanding Officer I conducted a thorough Saturday morning inspection of the personnel and station and found things in a very satisfactory condition.

With the improved shipping conditions and the helpful cooperation of the new Sub Area Commander conditions on Yap should continue to improve rapidly.

On the return of the LSM 443 from Koror, passage was taken on her to Guam and two days later proceeded to Peleliu via NATS.

On arrival at Peleliu spent about one hour with Capt. Fox and then proceeded via motor launch to Koror.

Two days were spent on Koror during which time the physical layout was examined, proposed changes explained. The dispensary was inspected and their program explained. The dispensary is functioning efficiently and busily and the nurses and practitioners training progressing well.

Mr. Taggart of USCC was contacted and the same condition in regards to trade goods exist there. The quality of handicraft is improving but due to lack of trade goods there is little incentive for the native to earn money.

With the now increased help of the Sub-Area Commander, the poor dependent housing situation will improve rapidly.

There are no food shortages in the Palaus.

I returned to Peleliu by motor launch spent several hours with Capt. Fox and left by Plane for Guam.

The most serious difficulty in the Palaus is the Supply Officer problem. With Lt. Cdr. Thomas on Peleliu, a line officer has been acting as Supply Officer on Koror. Thomas did not request retention and when he leaves in several months the situation will become more acute. Dr. Wilhoit will also be leaving in several months leaving only one doctor in the area.

The day following my arrival on Guam I proceeded to Truk via NATS on one of its biweekly flights. The day following I proceeded to Ponape via sea-plane on its weekly flight. Capt. Veeder and Comdrs Huxley and Arje made this trip.

Meetings were held that afternoon and night and Capt Veeder advised Comdr. Beall that a good deal of useful material was available to him at Truk and arrangements were made to send the Ponape station ship to Truk following their next field trips. Comdr Arje promised Comdr. Gleysteen what assistance he could from Truk to improve the physical layout of the Ponape dispensary.

A visit was made in company of Comdr. Beall and Ens. Arnett (Educational Officer) to Metalanim where we stayed over night in the Gov't House. The school, church and dispensary were visited and found to be clean and in good condition. A visit was then made to the Metalanim Plantation, a stand of 125,000 coconut trees, formerly Japanese owned which is now being cleared in a joint USCC and Milt Gov't deal. Good progress is being made but considerably more native labor is needed.

The following day a trip to Pakin Is. was made with Comdr. Beall and Mr. MacDougal of USCC. About six weeks ago fifteen native families were moved to this island under sponsorship of USCC. The main purpose was for fishing to supply the other islands and secondary to revive the copra production on that island. There is no entrance through the reef and we went from LSM by small boat to the reef, then by outrigger to the island. We found that very

little fishing had been done and that the natives would not be self supporting for some time to come if ever. The wisdom of keeping these natives on this island appears doubtful and the matter is to be taken up between Comdr. Beall and USCC.

The USCC trade store was visited on the day the natives brought in their handicraft and although it was raining continuously there was a great deal of interest and handicraft in the amount of \$1100 was purchased. This is a weekly occurrence and I was advised that the quality of the work is improving steadily.

The experimental farm was visited and Mr MacDougal who is in charge explained their program. They are handicapped by lack of experienced help but are progressing slowly. He had requested the return of the Japanese scientist who had operated the farm for over twenty years but the request was refused by SCAP.

The dispensary on Ponape has the poorest physical layout of any visited but their work is going ahead in good shape. Their training programs are under way and natives being brought in for training.

The Japanese Hydro Electric Plant was inspected and one of the generators is running on a part time basis. If the other one could be placed in operation it would solve the power problem for the entire island. If an engineer with hydro electric experience is available it would appear advisable that he be sent to Ponape for a short time to investigate and make recommendations.

There is no food problem in the Ponape area and their copra production will soon be a major factor in their economy. There is the same lack of suitable trade goods as found in other areas. With the additional help now being supplied from Truk things should improve generally. The acute shortage of small boats should be closely observed and if not remedied soon, action should be taken as they are absolutely essential to the copra trade.

The return to Truk was made on the weekly sea plane.

A visit was made to Uman in company with Comdr. Huxley, Lt Gold, and Lt Ashburn. A meeting of the chiefs was held and various matters discussed and decided. The meeting was very interesting and harmonious. Various responsibilities of the chiefs, ass't chiefs, and secretaries were explained and agreed upon.

The following day visits were made to Fefan and Dublon. At Fefan another chiefs meeting was held similar to the one at Uman and the sanitary condition of the island and the dispensaries were inspected in company with the sanitation officer Lt McQueen and were found to be excellent. Dublon was visited and the general condition of the island inspected particularly the area where the atoll track meet was to be held the following Saturday. Native men, women and children were busily at work preparing the area which was in excellent condition.

USCC and the station facilities were examined on Moen and found to be in excellent shape.

The station ship departed on a westward trip with Comdr. Huxley and Lt. Allen (H.C. Officer) and a USCC representative (Mr. O'Connor).

The supply compound was visited and found to be in poor shape. Lt. Cdr. Hildner (SC) has requested transfer to line, legal corps and has stated that he is not qualified for general supply corps duties. This was concurred in by his commanding officer and a relief requested.

The dispensary was inspected and found to be in excellent shape and very busy. The native practitioner training is progressing and the native nurses' training has now started under the voluntary supervision of the wife of the Senior Medical Officer. Mrs Arje is a registered nurse and should be put on the payroll. The assumption of this work by her has necessitated hiring some one to care for her children while performing these duties.

There is no food shortage in the Truk area and should never be. The same condition as far as trade goods exist. The natives are the most advanced as far as self government is concerned and health and sanitation improving rapidly.

I returned to Guam via the semi-weekly NATS plane and departed for Honolulu the following day on verbal orders of Capt. Hammock.

A general impression of the area visited was given to Adm. Wright and Capt. Winecoff before departing Guam.

A brief visit was had with Comdr. Miller in Kwajalein during the stop over but no opportunity was had for personal observation.

#### Conclusions:

The most serious problem throughout the area visited (excluding Guam and Saipan) is that of supply corps officers. The majority of these officers do not have the proper background for the duties they had to assume and the records and accounts in the areas when they took over were in deplorable condition. Some of them had had no supply officer there for several months.

In addition to these facts there are no qualified storekeepers assigned to assist in either general supply or disbursing.

Lt. Cdr. Thomas (SC) at Peleliu and Koror and Ens. Hyne (SC) at Yap have not requested retention and will be leaving in several months.

Lt. Cdr. Hildner (SC) at Truk has requested transfer to Line and is to be relieved from supply duties. Lt. Cdr. Walker (SC) at Kwajalein has requested to be admitted to the next class at Harvard convening in October.

Qualified reliefs should be ordered in time to be on station at least two weeks prior to detachment of present officers.

The medical situation is also being curtailed by the detachment of Medical Officers. At the present time there is only one Medical Officer at Majuro. Dr. Wilhoit at Koror is USNR and did not request retention which will leave only one Medical Officer there. Dr. Nesbitt at Ponape has requested a hardship discharge which has been approved and he expects orders daily which will leave only one Medical Officer at Ponape.

As can readily be seen this makes it almost impossible for a Medical Officer to make field trips, doubles the work of the Hospital Corps Officers and cuts down the efficiency of the field trips and will slow down the training program.

Inasmuch as the assistance given to the natives in health and sanitation is the most advanced and results most apparent if the above situation is not remedied the early benefits that have accrued will soon be lost.

The transportation situation has improved but the need for greater improvement is apparent. With the increased copra production small boats are badly needed in order to bring the copra into central points. The LCI stationed at Truk is superior in some ways to an LSM but does not have the cargo capacity which is the most pressing need. When and if sawmills are placed in operation and cordage, caulking, fittings, sail cloth and boat building tools become available the small boat program will gradually be overcome.

The most pressing question among the officers in the field is the status of their requests for retention. This I understand will be answered by 1 April.

The poor selection and lack of trade goods cannot be remedied in the field but C. O's in the area could screen the USCC requisitions and make recommendations.

The price of kerosene and fuel for native owned or leased fishing boats compared to the retail price of their catch is badly out of proportion and hindering the revival of the native fishing industry (kerosene approx. 35 cents per gallon and fish at from 5 to 10 cents per pound).

The need for an officer in ComMarianas to act as a coordinator is in my opinion necessary. He could coordinate the activities of the Supply Officer, Port Director, Loading Officer and USCC personnel. Ships have arrived at their destinations not fully loaded. High priority materials have been bypassed for those of lesser priority and there has been no attempt to prorate the space between MG and USCC. This officer could also be of distinct aid to the individual units, some of whom are now sending officers of their units continuously to Guam in order to obtain, expedite and load vital materials.

The general morale throughout the area is very good and the large majority of the officers are greatly interested in their work and are doing their jobs earnestly and conscientiously. Even this will be bettered when they know definitely their status as to their tour of duty.

The Sub Area Commanders are now cooperating to the full extent in advancing the MG program and their assistance should soon become apparent.

It is strongly recommended that a common frequency be set up for Yap and Truk and Yap and Peleliu and be guarded by those activities

for one hour at a designated time each week. This should be done in order that field trips can be coordinated so that with a minimum of additional travel commodities, materials and displaced natives can be exchanged.