

NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SAIPAN, M. I.

NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS ORDINANCE NO. 7-49:

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS:

Subject: Firearms and ammunition therefor; possession of

WHEREAS, there have been numerous reported incidents of depredations by wild dogs and cats on the Northern Marianas Islands, and

WHEREAS, the unrestricted possession and use of firearms would be hazardous to life and property on the Islands, and

WHEREAS, the quantity of game and birds presently on the Islands does not warrant the establishment of open hunting seasons,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WALTER C. HOLT, Captain, U. S. Navy, Governor, Northern Marianas Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby enact an ordinance as follows:

- I. The possession and use of firearms or any explosives whatsoever is forbidden to any and all persons except as herein provided.
- II. Citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands who are residents of the Northern Marianas Islands may have in their possession and use privately-owned firearms and ammunition therefor, of the following description:
  - (a) Shotguns of not larger than 12 gauge, provided a permit for ownership of these weapons approved by the Chief Commissioner of the Municipality involved and the Civil Administrator, or his representative in the case of Tinian and Rota, has first been obtained and each weapon is registered with the Pacific Insular Constabulary.
  - (b) Rifles of a caliber not exceeding .22 inches, provided a permit for ownership of these weapons approved by the Chief Commissioner of the Municipality involved and the Civil Administrator, or his representative in the case of Tinian and Rota, has first been obtained and each weapon is registered with the Pacific Insular Constabulary.
- III. A permit fee of one dollar (\$1.00) per firearm will be charged for each calendar year or portion of year. All permits will expire at the end of the current calendar year. New permits will be obtained not later than ten (10) days after the beginning of the new year at the original fee.

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- IV. No firearms shall be imported without the prior approval of the Civil Administrator.
- V. Transfer of ownership of firearms may not be made without the prior approval of the Civil Administrator.
- VI. Firearms shall be discharged by owners only as follows:
  - (a) In self defense.
  - (b) In protecting their home or other property from burglary.
  - (c) In destroying generally-acknowledged pests, such as wild dogs and cats destroying private property, outside the generally recognized limits of all villages.
  - (d) In firing at inanimate target practice, the areas established for that purpose by the local Constabulary.
- VII. The provision of this ordinance does not prohibit members of the Armed Forces of the United States and members of authorized law enforcement agencies from bearing arms while in performance of their assigned duties or tasks as authorized by competent authority.
- VIII. Violators of any section of this ordinance shall be punished by fine, not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment not to exceed six (6) months, or both, and/or confiscation of the firearm without compensation therefor.

Given under my hand and official seal this third day of December, 1949.



WALTER C. HOLT

Governor

Northern Marianas Islands