

5750
20 March 1975

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, LORTAD ltr 5750 of 17 MAR 75

From: Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines
To: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (dpa)

Subj: Historical Information; submission of

1. Forwarded.

A. L. OLSEN, JR.

SENIOR
COAST GUARD OFFICER
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96528

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To: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (dpa)
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Ref: (a) CCGD14 NOTE 5750 of 3 MAR 75

1. In accordance with reference (a), the following information is submitted for the period 27 June 1973 to 20 March 1975.

a. Commander: CDR Albert L. OLSEN, JR., USCG.
CDR OLSEN established and assumed command as Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines on 1 June 1973 and is expected to be relieved during July 1975.

b. Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines succeeded to the mission and functions of Commander, Coast Guard Section, Philippines, excepting those assumed by Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila. Specifically, Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines provides guidance and direction to overall Coast Guard activities within the Republic of the Philippines tempered by guidelines issued by the District Commander.

c. Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines was established under authority of Commandant OFCO 74-73 (COMDT (G-WAN) ltr 3121.1 of 26 MAR 73) as modified by Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (op) letter 3121, serial 37023 of 17 April 1973. Commandant 231451Z May 1973 designated CDR OLSEN Merchant Marine Detail Officer, Manila "with additional duties as Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines."

Administrative and supply support is provided to Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines by the Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila.

d. No changes in unit location have occurred since establishment.

e. Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines performed primarily administratively during this period until the latter part of November 1974. At that time almost daily meetings began with officials of the U. S. Embassy, Manila concerning the future of the Philippine Loran Chain after the closure of the Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila, then planned for 31 December 1974. It was understood, at the time, that Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines, would be disestablished concurrently with the Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila.

On 28 December 1974 the decision was made to continue operation of the Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila and consequently Senior

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Coast Guard Officer, Philippines. Prior to 28 December plans were made and instituted for the disestablishment of Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines, on that date these instituted plans were nullified. Since that time, Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines has been involved daily, in concert with the Commanding Officer, Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila, in discussions and meetings with representatives of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and officials of the U. S. Embassy, Manila. These meetings and discussions being held for the purpose of laying the groundwork for a new agreement between the two governments to enable continued USCG assistance to the Philippine Loran Chain. These meetings and discussions continue.

Two district inspections were conducted of Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines with a final unit evaluation grade of Excellent on both occasions.

f. Major problems and action taken.

(1). A major problem at the outset was the command structure of Coast Guard units within the Republic of the Philippines. For example, in the absence of the regularly assigned Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines, Commanding Officer, Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila assumed command as Acting SCGOP while retaining command of LORTAD. When this occurred the Merchant Marine Detail, Manila was without an officer and the Acting SCGOP (CO, LORTAD) was technically unqualified to assume duties as NMDO or to provide guidance for Merchant Marine Detail matters. This situation has not been resolved, however, under the guidelines established by Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines the continuity of operations of the Merchant Marine Detail, Manila was maintained.

(2). The command structure of Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines does not provide for a staff to assist that officer in the many routine administrative matters accruing to a command. This is further complicated by the frequent absence of the regularly assigned Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines while performing Merchant Marine Detail, Manila duties, within the country. This has been resolved by authorizing the Commanding Officer, Loran-A Technical Assistance Detail, Manila "by direction" authority.

(3). Due to the Honolulu - Manila time differential and mail delays, up-to-the-minute guidance was not available from the District Commander in regard to the meetings and discussions going on with the representatives of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and officials of the U. S. Embassy, Manila, concerning the Philippine Loran Chain. The problem of communication was not resolved, however almost

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daily reports here and are transmitted to the District Commander on the status of these talks.

g. No statistics are available due to the administrative nature of this command.

h. Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines has no material resources.

i. Of historical significance is the fact that CDR OLSEN established Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines as noted in a, above.

A. L. OLSEN, JR.