

Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Section
U.S. Naval Station, Box E
FPO, San Francisco 96652

1300
24 February 1971

From: Commander, Coast Guard Section, Philippines
To: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (p)
Subj: Duty in the Philippines; selection of personnel
Ref: (a) Personnel Manual, CG-207

1. It is recommended that reference (a) be amended to require interviews and a commanding officer's certification for personnel being considered for assignment to duty in the Philippines. During the last eighteen months, there have been six cases requiring return of families and or sponsors to the CONUS. The majority were the result of difficulties which existed prior to assignment. All were emotionally wrought with deep personal anxieties and disruptive to the unit mission. I believe that the commanding officers of the individuals concerned were aware of the problems or that they would have been detected in an interview.
2. The Philippines are a remote area, and medical specialists are very limited. Professional counseling to assist in resolving emotional problems or family difficulties is not available. Ethnic backgrounds result in local attitudes and moral codes which are not acceptable to some Americans, tending to create a hostile atmosphere. They are accepted too fully by others resulting in loss of integrity and dignity, reducing the Coast Guard image.
3. Selection of suitable individuals for the SCGOP Staff will influence future relations and events of interest to the Coast Guard in the Philippines. Accordingly, it is recommended that each person considered be interviewed, and he and his dependents, if applicable, be certified suitable by his commanding officer. Those with chronic illnesses or emotional problems should undergo a complete physical prior to certification. If any doubt exists, records should be forwarded to SCGOP for review and transmittal to Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Philippines, the area coordinator, for a final determination.

S. J. STEPHANY