

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 295, October 07, 1996]

PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) INTO THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)

WHEREAS, a Final Peace Agreement (hereinafter referred to as Agreement) between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), was entered into on the 2nd day of September 1996 between Ambassador Manuel T. Yan, Chairman of the Peace Panel and Professor Nur Misuari, Chairman of the MNLF Panel;

WHEREAS, the President, on the 2nd day of October 1996, issued Executive Order No. 371 proclaiming a Special Zone of Peace and Development (ZOPAD) in the Southern Philippines, and establishing therefor the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) and the Consultative Assembly;

WHEREAS, the Agreement provides that the five thousand seven hundred fifty (5,750) MNLF members shall be integrated into the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), 250 of whom shall be absorbed into the auxiliary services; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement further provides that all other matters regarding the integration on MNLF forces into the AFP not expressly covered therein shall be prescribed by the President as Commander-in-Chief of the AFP;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. Period of Integration. —

The integration of the MNLF forces into the AFP shall be completed during Phase 1 of the Agreement or before the establishment of a new Regional Autonomous Government as may be organized in accordance with Constitution.

SECTION 2. Rules and Regulations for Integration. —

a. The Secretary of National Defense shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the integration of MNLF members into the AFP in accordance with existing laws and polices pertaining to the AFP.

b. In the interest of facilitating the entry of MNLF members into the AFP, age, height, educational attainment, AFP Aptitude Battery Test and civil status requirements may be waived by competent authority on a case to case basis, subject to existing rules and regulations.

SECTION 3. Phasing of the Integration Process. —

The MNLF integration shall be in three (3) phases, namely: processing, individual training, and on-the-job training (OJT) and deployment.

a. Processing Phase.

1. The MNLF shall initially conduct its own pre-selection process based on the guidelines to be provided for by the AFP and shall submit a duly authenticated list of its 5,500 principal candidates and 2,500 alternate candidates for final processing by the AFP. The MNLF shall also submit the complete MNLF roster of personnel by units and their location as ready reference for the AFP processing teams
2. The processing of applicants for both officer candidates and candidate soldiers shall start on 01 November 1996.
3. The AFP shall provide billet and mess at processing centers for candidates undergoing actual processing.
4. The officer candidates and candidate soldiers shall bring along their individual firearms as they report to their respective training centers. Those without firearms shall be deemed disqualified and denied integration into the AFP.

b. Individual Training Phase.

1. All candidate soldier shall undergo a six-month Candidate Soldier Course. Likewise, officer candidates shall undergo a separate 48-week Officer Candidate Course. Both courses shall start not later than 01 February 1997. The completion of these courses shall be a requirement for enlistment or commissionship, as the case may be.
2. Training of officer candidates shall be in one (1) batch and candidate soldiers in three (3) batches.
3. Candidate soldier not undergoing formal training shall be assigned to AFP brigades/battalions nearest their areas of residence for purposes of control, administration, orientation training and utilization in civil-military operations or socio-economic development assistance projects of the AFP.

c. OJT/Deployment Phase.

Officer candidates and candidate soldiers who have completed their respective individual training shall be organized into separate units (rifle or engineer companies) for on-the-job training. These separate units shall preferably be deployed within the four (4) ARMM provinces and Basilan and shall remain distinct from other AFP units during the transition period.

SECTION 4. Final Integration into AFP Units. —

- a. The final integration into AFP units of those who have completed all the training