

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 18

**PROVIDING FOR THE INTEGRATION OF QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE
CORDILLERA PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY INTO THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Government is committed to the peace and development of the Cordillera Administrative Region;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the joint agreement between the Government and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army as expressed in the Joint Statement of the Government Panel and the Cordillera Panel signed at Baguio City on March 27, 1987, Executive Order No. 220 dated July 15, 1987, creating a Cordillera Administrative Region, appropriating funds therefore and for other purposes, was issued;

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Executive Order No. 220 provides that, within the framework of the Constitution and applicable laws, the restoration and maintenance of peace within the Cordilleras shall be a major concern of the Cordillera Administrative Region, that a regional security force shall be organized to assist in the defense and security of the region subject to guidelines issued for this purpose by the President after consultations with the Cordillera Administrative Region, other organizations, and appropriate agencies of the Government, and finally that the defense and security of the region shall be the responsibility of the National Government;

WHEREAS, in view of Section 6 of Executive Order No. 220 and pursuant to a Memorandum of Undertaking executed by and between representatives of the Government and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army on August 11, 1999, there is a need for the immediate integration of qualified members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army into the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the proposed Terms of Reference ("Terms of Reference") for the integration of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army into the Armed Forces of the Philippines have been approved as expressed in a Memorandum dated May 5, 2000 of the Executive Secretary addressed to the Presidential Assistant for North Luzon;

WHEREAS, there is a pressing need to activate six (6) Citizen Armed Force Geographical Units Active Auxiliary Companies and implement livelihood projects to accommodate members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army who cannot be integrated into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:



SECTION 1. Integration. - The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall integrate into the regular force an initial two hundred and sixty four (264) members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA). This number shall be composed of fifteen (15) officers and two hundred and forty nine (249) enlisted personnel.

The quota of the 264 CPLA members for integration shall be allocated correspondingly by province in order to ensure proportionate representation. The CPLA will submit a quota allocation duly authenticated by its Chairman, Chief of Staff, or Deputy Chief of Staff.

CPLA members who are not accommodated in the 264 quota allocation for integration into the regular force of the AFP may join the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGU) Active Auxiliary Companies to be organized under Section 6 hereof, in accordance with Executive Order No. 264 dated July 25, 1987 and applicable laws, rules and regulations. The AFP shall allocate one CAFGU Company per province in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

CPLA members who are not integrated into the AFP or the CAFGU shall be regular members and primary beneficiaries of the CPLA Livelihood Program established under Section 7 hereof. CPLA members who are integrated into the CAFGU may become members of the cooperatives that will be organized under the Livelihood Program but shall be considered as secondary beneficiaries thereof.

SECTION 2. Phases and Period of Integration. - The integration of CPLA members into the regular force of the AFP shall be in phases in the following manner:

- a. For officer candidates:
 - i. Processing Phase;
 - ii. Twelve-Month Officer Candidate Course;
 - iii. Three-Year Deployment / Transition Phase; and
 - iv. Full Integration Phase;
- b. For candidate soldiers:
 - i. Processing Phase;
 - ii. Six-Month Basic Military Training Phase;
 - iii. Six-Month On-the-Job / Specialization Training Phase;
 - iv. Three-Year Deployment / Transition Phase; and
 - v. Full Integration Phase.

SECTION 3. Ranks and Grades of Integrated Personnel. - The ranks and grades of officer candidates and candidate soldiers integrated into the AFP shall be subject to existing laws, policies, rules and regulations governing the AFP. Rank precedence, seniority and promotion of officers



and enlisted personnel shall be governed by current AFP rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. *Command and Support Relationships.* - The AFP shall organize a Joint AFP/CPLA Secretariat Office (JASCO) to supervise and monitor the implementation of the integration process. JASCO shall be composed of appropriate representatives from the AFP. The CPLA shall be represented in the JASCO. Support, central command and administration functions of the JASCO will be provided for in the rules and regulations to be prescribed under Section 8 hereof.

SECTION 5. *Disposition of Firearms.* - Applicants who voluntarily turnover their firearms shall be compensated in accordance with the AFP *Balik-Baril* Program. These firearms shall be accounted for as government property and may be re-issued to the applicant during training/deployment as members of separate units or CAFGU Active Auxiliary Companies.

SECTION 6. *CAFGU Program.* - The Department of National Defense shall authorize the organization of an additional six (6) CAFGU Active Auxiliary Companies for deployment in the CAR to be sourced from the existing CAFGU Program.

The processing and training of applicants for the CAFGU Active Auxiliary Companies shall be in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 264 dated July 25, 1987 and the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act.

The deployment of CAFGU Active Auxiliary Companies shall be on the basis of one (1) Company per province or as may be determined by the highest military commander in the area.

SECTION 7. *Livelihood Program.* - There is hereby established a Livelihood Program for the CPLA. The following executive departments/agencies shall coordinate with and assist the CPLA in the development and implementation of the Livelihood Program:

- a. Department of Agriculture;
- b. Department of Agrarian Reform;
- c. Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- d. Department of Trade and Industry;
- e. Department of Tourism;
- f. Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- g. Department of Public Works and Highways;
- h. Cooperative Development Authority;
- i. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; and
- j. Technology and Livelihood Resources Center.

The Secretary of National Defense shall establish a Project Management Office (PMO) attached to the Department of National Defense



to provide continuity in day-to-day management of the various projects under the Livelihood Program, particularly during its first three (3) formative years to ensure project survival and viability. The PMO shall assist in organizational work, provide coordinative services with government agencies, and provide administrative services for the management of CPLA projects.

SECTION 8. Rules and Regulations for Integration. – The Secretary of National Defense shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the integration of CPLA members into the AFP in accordance with existing laws and policies pertaining to the AFP taking into account the Terms of Reference. In the interest of facilitating the entry of CPLA members into the AFP, height, educational attainment, age and civil status requirements may be waived by the Secretary of National Defense subject to existing rules and regulations.

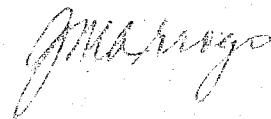
The PMO shall prescribe the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the CPLA Livelihood Program.

SECTION 9. Funding. – The Department of Budget and Management is hereby directed to release to the AFP an initial funding of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) to support the processing and training of the 264 CPLA integrees into the AFP. The remaining budgetary requirement for CY 2002 of the whole program shall be sourced later from available funds from the President's Contingency Fund of the same year or other sources to ensure the continuity of the program. Thereafter, appropriations for the continued implementation of the integration program shall be included in the annual general appropriations fund to be submitted to Congress for CY 2003, 2004, and 2005.


SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon approval.

City of Manila,

AUG 31 2001



By the President:


ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary



PGMA Outgoing # 04961