

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 360, December 30, 1973]

ADJUSTING THE AUTHORIZED GRADES IN THE COMMAND AND STAFF STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, under existing law, the position of Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is authorized a grade of General while the position of Vice Chief of Staff, second ranking officer of the AFP, which should be authorized the next succeeding lower grade is, in fact, authorized a grade of Major General which is two grades lower;

WHEREAS, the position of Deputy Chief of Staff, the third ranking officer in the General Headquarters (GHQ), AFP, which should be authorized two grades lower than the Chief of Staff, AFP is authorized a grade of Brigadier General which is three grades lower;

WHEREAS, the position of the four Major Service Commanders are authorized the grade of Brigadier General but their immediate principal subordinates, the Vice/Deputy Commanders, Chief of Staff, and major unit commanders are, at present, actually in the same grade;

WHEREAS, the Commanding General of the Presidential Security Command, concurrently the Senior Military Adviser to the Commander-in-Chief, holds a position of great responsibility and should have the rank commensurate to his position;

WHEREAS, the position of Assistant Chiefs of Joint Staff (JI, J2, J3, J4, J6, and J7) are authorized grades lower than the Major Service Chiefs of Staff and their Major Unit Commanders even though the positions of the former are of higher category in the AFP Command and Staff structure;

WHEREAS, the Assistant Chiefs of Joint Staff exercise direction and supervision over the Major Service Staff and their Major Unit Commanders in the name of the Chief of Staff, AFP, or, where authority is specifically delegated, in their own name;

WHEREAS, the major commands as well as the general staff positions of comparable Armed Forces of other nations are headed by officers with grades higher than counterpart representative in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, placing the Philippine military representative at a disadvantageous position in international military conferences;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the pyramidal pattern in the Command and Staff structure of the Armed Forces of the Philippines by restructuring the hierarchical grade relationships and to strengthen the stature of the pivotal and sensitive positions in the AFP; and

WHEREAS, the greatly increased responsibilities and crucial role of the military under Presidential Proclamations No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, and No. 1104, dated January 17, 1973, coupled with the sizeable increase in the AFP standing force from 21,000 in 1948 when the AFP Personnel Act (Republic Act No. 291) was passed to 100,000 beginning July this year, requires that every effort be made to strengthen and improve the command and control structure of the Military organization;