

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 18, August 31, 2001]

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
- 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.