

18 August 1948

Natives Occupying Permanent Danger Areas (TSUKEN SHIMA)

1 DCMG

1. Transmitted herewith proposed draft of 1st Ind to letter Hq. Ryukyus Command, AIC 353.1, dated 14 Aug 1948, subject: Natives Occupying Permanent Danger Areas.

2. Also attached hereto Copy of Regulation No. 55-8, Hq. 1st A.D. dated 15 Jan 48 referred to in paragraph 1, proposed 1st Ind. Request this be returned to Gen. Affairs Dept. for file.

3. With reference to paragraph 3 basic communication the following is my personal opinion of the reasons for presence of natives on and near TSUKEN SHIMA.

The former inhabitants of this island moved out during the war. After the war this area was turned over to Military Government for resettlement and a portion of the people were able to move back. Then the island was assigned to the Air Corps as a bombing range and again the people had to move, approximately 1400 of them were moved to Katchin Mura and Hamahika Shima to the North, which were already overcrowded. As we all know food is not plentiful and these people must resort to fishing to provide food for themselves. Fishing is much better around Tsuken Shima than it is around the Islands to the North, therefore, the former inhabitants travel to their home island to fish. There is also a shortage of firewood in the central and southern parts of Okinawa. These people cannot afford to pay the high prices asked on the market for wood transported from the north. The cost has increased 3 to 4 times in the past 2 years, while the size of the bundles has been reduced more than 50%. These people are therefore forced to hunt for drift wood to use for cooking purposes. The whole problem is one of survival and caring for their families. It is true we have directed the people to stay off the island at all times and they have in a sense disobeyed an order, but these people fail to see why they cannot utilize this area part of the time, in as much as bombings have been carried out but a few times during the

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past two years. They also cannot understand and neither can I, why we had to move people from a fertile island, only to be used a few times each year, when the Air Corps already have three other islands for bombing ranges in the China Sea. In that Tsuken Shima range is used very little, these people in order to provide food and fuel for their use are willing to take chances on arrest or injury by going into this area.

2 Incls:

- 1 - Draft 1st Ind
- 2 - Regulation 1st A.D. No. 55-8

FRED M. LA BREE
Major C.E.
Dir Gen Aff Dept

General Aff

*Recd 22 Jan 48
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55-8
2 Pages
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REGULATION)
NO 55-8)

HQ 1ST AIR DIVISION
APO 239 15 Jan 48

(S)

OPERATIONS

Gunnery and Bombing Ranges

(This Reg supersedes 1st Air Div Reg 55-8, 15 Oct 46)

1. Purpose: The purpose of this regulation is to assign reference numbers and designate the danger areas for all recognized bombing and gunnery ranges in the Okinawa area.
2. Scope: The provisions of this regulation will be complied with by all pilots operating aircraft within the 1st Air Division area of responsibility.
3. Ranges: There are ten (10) recognized gunnery and bombing ranges in the Okinawa area as indicated in inclosure 1.
4. Each range is assigned a definite reference number which will be its official designation. NOTAMS referring to these ranges or requests for their use need only include the appropriate number. Copies of this regulation will be forwarded to neighboring commands and operations offices for informational purposes.
5. Joint Use: These ranges are available for joint use by both Air Force and Navy agencies. Requests for use of ranges 8 and 9 will be coordinated through Fleet Air Wing One. Use of all other ranges will be coordinated through Hq 1st Air Division. This coordination must be completed so as to allow sufficient publication of their use as indicated below. The status of each ranges is indicated below:
 - a. Permanent Danger Areas:
 - #1 (Kobi Sho) - within 5 mile radius
 - #2 (Tori Shima) - within 5 mile radius
 - #3 (Irisima Shima) - within 2 mile radius
 - #4 (VHB Gunnery Range) - entire area
 - #5 (Fighter Air to Air Gunnery) - entire area
 - b. Temporary Danger Areas:
 - #6 (Ie Shima) - Clear for Gunnery use on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week only. Unrestricted on all other days.
 - #7 (Bolo Point) - Restricted only when in indicated by NOTAMS.
 - #8 (Navy) - In order to use, must be coordinated with Fleet Air Wing One, thru A-3, 1st Air Division with at least 5 day advance notice.
 - #9 (Kuteka Shima and area of 5 mile radius to SE) - In order to use must be coordinated with Fleet Air Wing One, thru A-3, 1st Air Division with at least 3 day advance notice.

Incl #2

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RANGE #1

25° 56' N 123° 41' E
5 Mile Radius
(Not on chart)

RANGE #2

26° 36' N 126° 50' E
5 Mile Radius

RANGE #3

26° 23' N 127° 06' E
2 Miles Radius

RANGE #4

27° 30' N 127° 00' E
28° 00' N 127° 00' E
28° 00' N 127° 30' E
27° 30' N 127° 30' E

RANGE #5

27° 28' N 127° 50' E
27° 20' N 128° 03' E
26° 55' N 127° 44' E
27° 03' N 127° 31' E

RANGE #6

26° 45' N 127° 45' E
5 Mile Radius North West

RANGE #7

26° 26' N 127° 43' E
18 Mile Radius from 310° to 35°

RANGE #8

27° 00' N 128° 36' E
26° 50' N 128° 53' E
26° 25' N 128° 35' E
26° 35' N 128° 17' E

RANGE #9

26° 11' N 127° 56' E
5 Mile Radius South East

RANGE #10

26° 15' N 127° 57' E
3 Mile Radius

} TSUKEN SHIMA.

Incl #1 to 1st Air Div Reg 55-8, 15 Jan 48

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