

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
FAR EAST COMMAND  
APO 500



CIRCULAR )  
: )  
NO....51 )

24 September 1949

MARRIAGE OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

1. a. Rescission. Circular 86, General Headquarters, Far East Command, 13 August 1947.

b. Reference. Special Regulations 600-240-5, Air Force Regulation 34-12, 11 February 1949.

2. Purpose. The purpose of this circular is to establish the procedure for marriage, in the Far East Command, of the following categories of personnel:

a. Members of the United States Army and United States Air Force.

b. Civilian employees of the Departments of the Army and the Air Force, paid from appropriated or nonappropriated funds, who are employed or located in occupied areas of the Far East Command, except locally employed persons who are not United States citizens.

3. General. a. Local information media will be utilized from time to time to insure understanding of marriage regulations and their intent. Orientation of replacements will include this subject. Questions and discussions will be encouraged.

b. Personnel listed in paragraph 2 may not marry in any area within the Far East Command without the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, or the commanding general among those enumerated in paragraph 4, within whose territorial jurisdiction they are employed or located.

c. Except under very unusual circumstances, personnel listed in paragraph 2 who are United States citizens will not be granted permission to marry persons who are ineligible to enter the United States for permanent residence or naturalization. Approval of requests may be given by the Commander-in-Chief, Far East, only. As a guide, a digest of Immigration and Naturalization Laws is attached as Inclosure 1.

d. Anyone contemplating either marriage to an alien with minor children by a previous husband or adoption of an alien child should be cautioned that in many instances such children are inadmissible to the United States.

e. Individuals who marry without permission will not be furnished any assistance in securing immigration documentation, nor will they be granted any privileges normally accorded married personnel. Although punitive

action for marrying without permission in violation of a standing order is within the prerogatives of commanders, it is encouraged only where other infractions have occurred in connection with the action, since the individual faces the prospect of punishment of a deeper and more permanent nature through possible inability to take his wife and family to the United States on account of immigration restrictions.

4. Delegation of Authority. Authority to approve or disapprove applications to marry within the scope of paragraph 3b, is delegated to the Commanding Generals, Eighth Army, Philippines Command, Marianas-Bonins Command, Ryukyus Command, Far East Air Forces, and Headquarters and Service Group, General Headquarters, Far East Command, for personnel within their respective commands. This authority may be delegated down to and including divisions, separate brigades, base sections, and Air Force elements commanded by general officers.

5. Responsibilities of the Approving Authority. The approving authority is responsible for the following:

a. Explanation of the provisions of this circular to applicants contemplating marriage to individuals in this command.

b. Prior to approval, initiation of the necessary investigation to determine that the marriage has a reasonable chance of success and that, regardless of the station of the applicant, the dependents will not become public charges.

c. After approval, preparation of a letter of authorization substantially as shown in Inclosure 2, each copy authenticated by official seal or signature of an adjutant.

6. Application for Permission to Marry. a. Individuals who request permission to marry will submit separate applications through channels to the approving authority of the headquarters enumerated in paragraph 4 under whose jurisdiction they are employed or located.

b. When the individuals are of different headquarters, approval of both headquarters is necessary. When the individuals are of the same headquarters, approval of the commander is necessary for both individuals.

c. Applications will include, but not be limited to, the following information in a statement signed by both parties:

- (1) Approximate date the marriage is to be performed.

- (2) Present marital status, to include whether either individual is married or has been previously involved in any former marital status or allegiance. If divorce or annulment is indicated, application must be accompanied by a certified copy of final divorce decree or annulment or other satisfactory documentary evidence of the termination of any previous marriage by divorce or annulment. Such evidence will be noted and returned to the applicant at such time as permission to marry is either granted or refused.
- (3) Date of termination of latest marriage, if any.
- (4) Number of previous marriages and how terminated.
- (5) Whether both individuals understand that, should authority to marry be granted, the United States is in no way obligated to transport the wife or dependents to the United States except as provided for in current Department of the Army or Department of the Air Force directives.
- (6) In case of death or other incapacity of the husband, whether the prospective wife's family has ample income for her support.
- (7) A statement from the prospective husband as to what financial arrangements he has made to insure adequate support of the wife, including financial arrangements in case he becomes a casualty.
- (8) A statement that both parties understand the provisions of this circular.
- (9) Length of period of courtship.
- (10) Nationality of both parties.
- (11) Written evidence from a recognized physician that both parties have been found on physical examination to be free from infectious venereal disease, active tuberculosis and other major communicable diseases.
- (12) Written evidence from a recognized chaplain that he has interviewed both applicants and that they have been suitably counseled on the problems and responsibilities of marriage.
- (13) Age of both parties.

- (14) A sworn affidavit of consent of both parents or legal guardian for any party who is a minor (under 21 years of age).

7. Marriage Ceremonies. a. Regardless of the nationality or citizenship of the contracting parties, marriage ceremonies must comply with the laws of the place where the marriage is performed. Personnel are required to present evidence of military approval as well as a certified copy of divorce decree or annulment or other satisfactory documentary evidence of the termination of any previous marriage by divorce or annulment to the officiating authority before the marriage ceremony is performed.

b. Whenever practicable, the ceremony will be attended by representatives of the applicant's unit.

c. A suitable marriage certificate will be presented, supplementing that provided by local laws.

d. Procedure for marriage in Japan is attached as Inclosure 3.

e. Subsequent to a civil marriage, a United States Army, Air Force, or Navy chaplain may perform the religious rite of marriage, but in such case the certificate furnished to the parties and any public record of the rite will contain the words, "Religious rite following civil marriage."

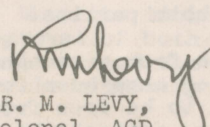
8. Status After Marriage. After marriage for which approval or permission has been obtained in compliance with the provisions of this circular, the contracting parties will be governed by the same regulations and policies as are applicable to persons whose dependents are transported into the command from the United States.

AG 291.1 (9 May 49)GA

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL MacARTHUR:

EDWARD M. ALMOND,  
Major General, General Staff Corps,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

  
R. M. LEVY,  
Colonel, AGD,  
Adjutant General.

3 Incls

- 1. Digest of Immigration and Naturalization Laws Applicable to Marriage of Military and Department of the Army Civilian Personnel
- 2. Form Letter, "Permission to Marry"
- 3. Marriage Procedure in Japan

DIGEST OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAWS  
APPLICABLE TO MARRIAGE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL,  
AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
EMPLOYEES

1. The immigration laws of the United States generally provide for the exclusion of aliens who are ineligible for citizenship, with certain exceptions. Under existing laws, eligibility for naturalization and citizenship of aliens extends at present to only certain races of persons, including white persons, persons of African nativity or descent, persons who are descendants of races indigenous to the continents of North and South America or adjacent islands, Filipino persons or persons of Filipino descent, Chinese persons or persons of Chinese descent, persons of races indigenous to India. Aliens in order to be eligible for naturalization and citizenship must have a preponderance of the blood of races to which this privilege is extended by law; that is, more than one half (1/2) of the blood of such races, or any combination thereof.

2. In certain cases a person may be a citizen of the United States regardless of race. Thus, except in a few special cases, any person born in the United States will be a citizen, even though his parents are not eligible for citizenship. Likewise, a person born outside the United States may be a citizen or national, even though he might otherwise be ineligible for admission to, or naturalization by, the United States. Such a case would exist if either of his parents is a citizen or national of the United States, and both he and his parents have complied with the statutory law relating to residence in the United States, or territories thereof, for certain periods of time before he becomes of age.

3. An alien who marries a citizen of the United States does not thereby acquire United States citizenship.

4. A prerequisite to entry into the United States of an alien wife of a United States citizen is a determination that she is not likely to become a public charge due to inadequate financial resources or for other reasons. This determination is made by American consular officers whose decisions are usually final and not subject to revision or appeal.

5. The laws with respect to naturalization and citizenship are complicated and cannot be treated adequately in a few words. Therefore, persons having problems of this nature under this circular should obtain competent legal advice.

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(NAME OF HEADQUARTERS)

(FILE LINE)

(DATE)

SUBJECT: Permission to Marry

\*TO: (NAME OF APPLICANT)

1. Pursuant to authority delegated in Circular 51, General Headquarters, Far East Command, 1949, permission is granted to (Name of applicant) (Military grade or civilian rating, and address), to marry (Name, grade or rating, and address of spouse), on or about (Date).

2. This permission to marry applies only to (Name of applicant), who is a member of this command.

3. Requirements of Far East Command directives and State Department regulations governing registration of marriages will be complied with by the parties hereto.

(NAME AND TITLE OF APPROVING  
AUTHORITY)

Seal

Distribution

1. Organization File.
2. To individual (for presentation to the officiating clergyman or registrar of marriage).
3. To headquarters delegating authority to grant permission.

\*Letter to be forwarded through channels.

Inclosure 2

(Cir 51)

### MARRIAGE IN JAPAN

Marriage in Japan is merely an agreement between the participants, and under Japanese law neither a license nor a ceremony is required for its completion; the marriage becoming legally effective upon notification by the participants to a Japanese registrar. Such notification can be effected by American citizens in Japan only through, and with, the assistance of American Consular Officers, who are available in the Yokohama and Kobe Divisions of the Diplomatic Section, General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

Upon completion of registration of the marriage in accordance with Japanese law, American consular officers issue to the parties concerned a "Certificate of Witness to Marriage" which is documentary evidence of compliance with Japanese law, and cannot be issued through correspondence.

The parties concerned should consult one of the above mentioned Divisions of the Diplomatic Section as long as possible in advance of the proposed date of marriage. Communications should be addressed as follows:

Yokohama Division  
Diplomatic Section  
American Consulate Building  
APO 343

or

Kobe Division  
Diplomatic Section  
APO 317

Inclosure 3

