

MILPERSMAN 1050-260

LEAVE/EMERGENCY LEAVE IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Governing Directives	DOD Foreign Clearance Guide BUPERSINST 1050.11G
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1. General Requirements

a. Members, requesting leave in Republic of the Philippines, are required to submit a country clearance request.

b. In the case of emergency leave, travel may commence immediately after the clearance request message has been sent; however, a clearance message must be sent.

c. Consult the DOD Foreign Clearance Guide and BUPERSINST 1050.11G for information concerning

(1) travel requirements, and

(2) specific format and content of the clearance request.

d. The DOD Foreign Clearance Guide also lists requirements for Filipino servicemembers and their families who are non-immigrant residents of the U.S.

2. Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) No Longer Exists.

Following withdrawal of U.S. Military Forces, there is no longer a Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the Philippines. Therefore, the situation and conditions for travel to and within the Philippines have changed significantly for U.S. personnel. See the description of the situation below.

3. **Passports and Visas**. The requirements are as follows:

- a. To enter the Philippines, passports are required; and
- b. to stay longer than 21 days by non-Filipino citizens, visas are required.

4. **Financial Situation**

a. The financial situation within country is as follows:

(1) U.S. disbursing and check cashing facilities are not available.

(2) Sufficient funds and/or travelers checks should be brought to the Philippines to defray expenses incurred.

(3) Personal checks are not considered acceptable tender by local merchants or hotels.

(4) A limited check cashing facility is available, but is restricted to individuals

(a) assigned temporary duty/temporary additional duty to metro Manila, or

(b) on emergency leave.

b. Contact U.S. Defense Attaché Officer (USDAO) Manila for further instructions.

5. **Travel Arrangements**. The situation for making travel arrangements is as follows:

a. Travelers will pay travel tax on tickets purchased in the Philippines.

b. There are no U.S. travel agencies, i.e., personnel transportation offices, available.

c. It is highly recommended that all travelers have return tickets in hand prior to entering the Philippines.

6. **Other Conditions**. Other significant existing conditions and requirements are as follows:

a. Personnel are not exempt from payment of import and export taxes and customs duties.

b. Personnel are subject to Philippine civil and criminal law and procedure.

c. Visitors may be required to pay immigration and alien registration fees.

d. The U.S. Embassy will only provide those services provided in any other foreign countries.

e. All personnel should ensure complete preparations are made prior to travel to the Philippines.