



From the Trust Territory of Pacific to the Federated States of Micronesia

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Abstract

In 1947 the Japanese Mandate on the South Islands became the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands until the Trust Territory was dissolved on 10 July 1987. On 22 December 1990 the U.N. Security Council ratified the termination of trusteeship, the last step toward independence of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. During that era three flags flew in the Islands: the United Nations, USA and later TTPI flags.

The Trust Territory adopted its own flag in 1962, a light blue flag with six white stars representing the six districts. From the end of the 1970s each district organized its own way to the future, in association with the USA or full independence.

In this lecture I will speak mainly on the Federated States of Micronesia. The flag of the Federation is similar to the TTPI flag but with 4 stars. Each of the four states—Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap—have adopted their own flags using local symbols. Laws were promulgated about the protocol and the use of these flags. Some municipalities have adopted a flag but it was impossible to find information about their symbolism.



Chuuk, 1979 Proposal

From the Trust Territory of Pacific to the Federated States of Micronesia

1. History¹

The islands of Micronesia were discovered on 1 October 1525 by Diego da Rocha, a Portuguese captain who named them *Islas Sequeiras*. On 1 January 1528 Alvaro de Saavedra claimed the islands for Spain and in 1686 Francisco Lazcano named them *Islas Las Carolinas* (Caroline Islands) after King Charles II of Spain, who had funded the expedition.

In 1869 Germans established a permanent trading station on Yap and in 1875 Germany attempted to assert rights to the islands. The Caroline Islands were administered under the Spanish East Indies, from Manila in the Philippines. Germany, which had occupied Yap, disputed the Spanish claim. In 1886 a papal arbitration by Pope Leo XIII confirmed the islands were Spanish but gave Germany free trading rights.

After Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Philippines and Guam became territories of the United States. With Manila (the administrative centre for the Carolines) and its entire naval fleet lost, Spain could not govern the Carolines. Germany then pressured the Spanish government to facilitate the sale of the islands. Under the German-Spanish Treaty, signed 12 February 1899, Germany paid 17 million marks for them. The German territory included the Caroline Islands, the Marianas Islands, and Palau, administered as *Karolinen*, administratively associated with German New Guinea.

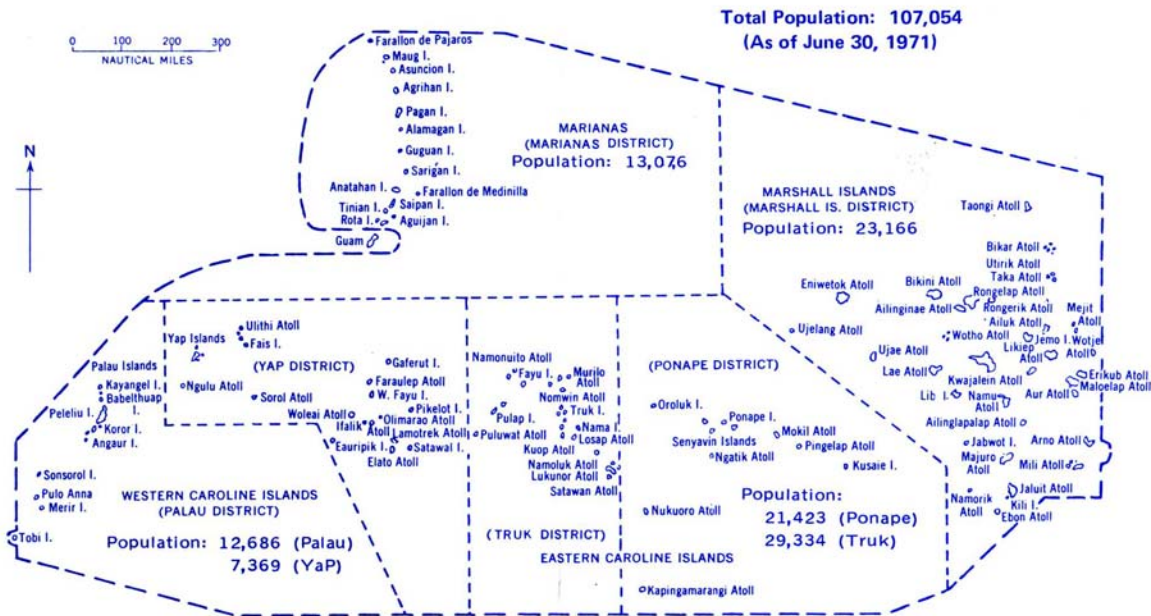
At the beginning of the First World War, the Japanese occupied the islands on 7 October 1914. On 17 December 1920 the League of Nations gave the islands to Japan as a mandate.

During the Second World War, the American occupation began on 20 September 1944. The islands were administered by the U.S. Navy from 20 September 1944 until 30 June 1951 and thereafter until 1981 by the U.S. Department of Interior. The Japanese mandate over the South Sea Islands was formally revoked by the United Nations on 18 July 1947. The islands were placed under the trusteeship² of the U.S.A. and became known as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI).

¹ Wikipedia encyclopedia; Worldstatesmen; General Information, April 1972, Public Information Division, Department of Public Affairs, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands. Letter of James H. Manke, Chief Public Information Division, Office of the High Commissioner dated 15 December, 1972.

² The United Nations Trusteeship Council, one of the principal organs of the United Nations, was established to help ensure that trust territories were administered in the best interests of their inhabitants and of international peace and security.

The TTPI included the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands, and Palau. It was divided in 7 districts: Marshall, Palau, Ponape (including Kusaie), Rota, Saipan, Truk, and Yap. Saipan District and Rota District merged on 1 July 1962, becoming the Marianas Islands District. From then on there were 6 districts: Marianas Islands, Marshall, Palau, Ponape, Truk, and Yap (1).



(1)

From 1975 to 1978, the Marianas Islands sought to negotiate their way out of the TTPI government. They were granted commonwealth status, on 8 January 1978 (Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, CNMI).

Kusaie was detached from Ponape and became a separate district in 1977.

In July 1978 the Palau District and the Marshall Islands District rejected the proposed constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia. The Marshall Islands left the Federation on 1 May 1979 and signed a Compact of Free Association with the United States which became effective on 21 October 1986. The Republic of Palau left on 1 January 1981 and signed the Compact effective on 1 October 1994.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was established on 10 May 1979 including four states: Kosrae, Ponape, Truk, and Yap. Its Compact of Free Association with the United States became effective on 3 November 1986.

The Compact of Free Association (COFA) defines the relationship that three sovereign states—the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau—have entered into as associated states with the United States. Under the COFA relationship, the United States provides guaranteed financial assistance over a 15-year period administered through the Office of Insular Affairs in exchange for full international defense authority and responsibilities.

The Trust Territory was dissolved on 10 July 1987. On 22 December 1990 the U.N. Security Council ratified the termination of trusteeship, the last step toward independence of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

2. Flags of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The American occupation of Micronesia began on 20 September 1944. The islands were administrated by U.S. Navy from 20 September 1944 until 30 June 1951 and from 1 July 1951 until 1981 by the U.S. Department of Interior.

The United States of America flag flew over the islands starting in 1944. Three different U.S. flags flew in the islands: the first had 48 stars (1944 to 3 July 1959), the second, 49 stars (4 July 1959 to 3 July 1960) and the last, 50 stars, from 4 July 1960 until 30 November 1978—when the Federated States of Micronesia flag was hoisted.

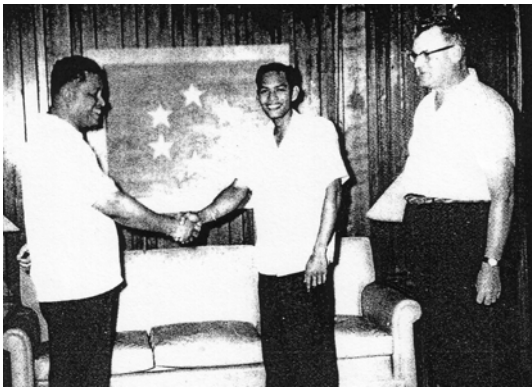
After the Japanese mandate over Micronesia was formally revoked by the United Nations on 18 July 1947, the United Nations oversaw the American administration of the TTPI. Therefore the United Nations flag was frequently hoisted alongside the United States of America flag³.

In 1962 a competition was organized to adopt a TTPI flag. The winner of the territory-wide flag design contest was Gonzalo Santos of Saipan, Marianas District. He appears in the centre of the photo (2), congratulated by Chairman of the Council of Micronesia Dwight Heine (left), following presentation of the \$250 award by High Commissioner M. W. Goding (right). The design, consisting of a circle of six white stars on a light blue field, was adopted by the Council of Micronesia (an unofficial body) on 3 October 1962 at its Conference in Koror, Palau District. Representing the six districts of the Trust Territory (the Northern Marianas, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Ponape, Truk, and Yap), the white stars also symbolize peace; the blue field stands for freedom and loyalty. The new Trust Territory flag was first raised on 24 October 1962 at the provisional capital of Micronesia⁴. The flag was reapproved by the TTPI High Commissioner and the Congress of Micronesia in July 1965.

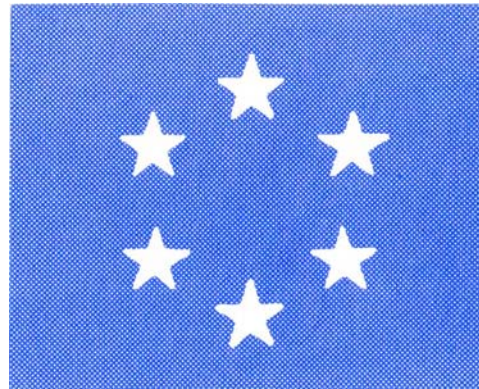
³ Smith, Whitney: *The Flag Book of the United States. The story of the Stars and Stripes and the Flags of the Fifty States*. William Morrow & Company, Inc. New York, 1975, revised edition. Pages 207/209/210. Plates LXII, pages 216/217; also the 1970 edition.

⁴ TTPT Annual Report 1962, page 4. Archives of the College of Marianas, Saipan, 6 August 2009.

The flag became official on 19 August 1965. The flag approved has 6 stars, all pointed upwards (2) (3)⁵ (4)⁶. While a contemporary image of the flag shows it nearly square, it is mostly used in the proportions of 3:5 (5)⁷.



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)

Sometime later the stars were displayed in a different manner⁸ (6). I have not found any explanation.



(6)

⁵ General Information, April 1972, Public Information Division, Department of Public Affairs, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands. Letter from James H. Manke, Chief, Public Information Division, Office of the High Commissioner, dated 15 December 1972.

⁶ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

On 1 April 1976 the Northern Marianas achieved commonwealth status outside the federation, and in January 1977 the state of Kosrae was formed out of part of Ponape within the federation. So from April 1976 until January 1977 the number of districts was temporarily reduced to five but the flag was not changed.

The number of districts was permanently reduced to four when the Marshall Islands left the Federation on 1 May 1979 and Palau left on 1 January 1981. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was established on 10 May 1979, included four states, Kosrae, Ponape, Truk, and Yap. It had adopted the TTPI flag on 30 November 1978, but with only four stars.

I have found several different photographs in the archives of the Trust Territory⁹: a 1962 photo¹⁰ (7) taken during an Inner-District Conference (perhaps in Palau), shows Judge Furber seated in front of the three flags used in the Territory; a 1965 photo (8) shows High Commissioner M. Wilfred Goding giving a speech in front of the TTPI flag, with High Chief Ibedul Ngoriaki and Lazarus Saali¹¹.



(7)



(8)

The photo in (9) was taken between 1965 and 1975. In (10) Judge Pablo Ringang is presiding over the Palau District court in session in February 1969¹².



(9)



(10)

⁹ University of Hawaii Library, Trust Territory archives. <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/digicoll/ttp/photodescript.html>.

¹⁰ Ibid., photo 1931c05.

¹¹ Ibid., photo 176503.

¹² Ibid., photo 1763a01j.

On 1 May 1970 **(11)** Haruo I. Remeliik was sworn in as Deputy District Administrator for Palau. He is to the right of High Commissioner Edward Elliott Johnston, who has on his left District Administrator Thomas Remengesau. Behind them is the TTPI flag¹³.



(11)



(12)

In **(12)** Palauan school children are at a flag raising¹⁴ probably in 1973. In **(13)** Palau Police greet a United Nations mission visiting Palau¹⁵ on 15 March 1973.



(13)



(14)

(14) is from a photo taken in 1974. In **(15)** District Administrator Thomas Remengesau addresses at the Palau Legislature opening, April 1977. High Chief Ibedul Gibbons is seated to the right, behind him¹⁶.



(15)



(16)

¹³ Ibid., photo 176002.

¹⁴ University of Hawaii Library, Trust Territory archives, <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/digicoll/ttp/photodescript.html> photo 220109.

¹⁵ Ibid., photo 220103.

¹⁶ Ibid., photo 15802, photographer J. Ngiraibuuch, Jr.

In 1978, High Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons was sworn in as mayor of Koror (Palau). The photo shows Attorney General Mamoru Nakamura, Palau District Administrator Thomas Remengasau, and High Chief Reklai standing in front of the U.S. and TTPI flags (16)¹⁷.

In (17) the TTPI flag flies jointly with the U.N. flag¹⁸. In (18) the U.S. and TTPI flags are hoisted at Bikini (Marshall Islands) in presence of High Commissioner Norwood and Bikini leaders (between 1966/1969)¹⁹. The Palau Constabulary carried flags in parade on the occasion of a U.N. delegation visit (19)²⁰.



(17)



(18)



(19)

2.1. Flag of the High Commissioner (1947-1986)

The flag of the U.S. High Commissioner (HC) has a white field with a dark blue seal (20)²¹.

The photograph (21) shows the High Commissioner flag flying with the TTPI flag and the U.S. flag outside the TTPI headquarters in Saipan (Marianas) in 1963²².

The office of High Commissioner lasted until 1986, when the Compacts went into effect for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Palau agreed to a compact of its own in January 1986, but took eight years to approve to document. By 1994, when the process had reached its end, the office of the HC and the HC's flag had fallen into disuse, with remaining responsibilities for Palau transferring to the Interior Department²³.

¹⁷ Ibid., photo 173203.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid., photo 186630, photo by Ken Libby.

²⁰ Ibid., photo 187324.

²¹ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

²² http://hoshie.mozfaq.org/TTPI_flagpole.jpg.

²³ Joshua Holman, FOTW, 5 May 2005.



(20)



(21)

The High Commissioner used different car flags. A set of these flags is displayed in the dining room of the Truk Stop Hotel in Weno, Chuuk. The owner agreed to open the glass frame to allow me to take a better photo²⁴. In (22) is the United States 50-star flag, 30 x 43 cm. with a white fringe of 2.5 cm.



(22)

The second flag is the High Commissioner's personal flag, 39 x 25 cm; the seal only appears on the obverse (23).



(23)

²⁴ Collection of Bill Stinnett, Truk Stop Hotel. Photo by Michel R. Lupant, 1 August 2009.

The third is the TTPI flag, 41.5 x 28 cm (24).



(24)



(25)

It seems that the High Commissioner used either the U.S. flag or the TTPI flag together with his flag. A government license plate shows the TTPI flag (25).

2.2. Act Adopting an Official Flag of Micronesia²⁵

*Congress of
Micronesia*

*Public Law NO. 1-1
[A. a. NO. 3/A. D. 2]*

*General Session
1965*

AN ACT

Adopting an official flag of Micronesia and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA:

Section 1. Flag of Micronesia. There shall be and there is hereby adopted an official Territorial flag of Micronesia, which shall consist of a circle of six white stars centered on a field of blue. The width of the flag of Micronesia shall bear a ratio to its length of 1 to 1.9, and the width of the flag to the width of a star the ratio of 4 to 1. The flag may be reproduced for unofficial purposes with different dimensions.

Section 2. Flag of Micronesia display. The flag of Micronesia shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset or during such hours shall be displayed on buildings, flagstuffs or halyards.

The flag of Micronesia shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

When the flag of Micronesia is flown or displayed together with the flag of the United States on separate masts or staffs, it shall be flown or displayed at approximately the same level with that of the United States flag, provided that the flag of Micronesia shall occupy a position left to the flag of the United States, when looking out from the building or platform. When the flag of Micronesia is flown or displayed with the flag of the United States on a single staff or halyard, the flag of Micronesia shall be flown or displayed below the United States flag. When the flag of Micronesia is flown or displayed together with the flags of the United States and the United Nations on separate masts or staffs, the three

²⁵ Archives, College of Marianas, Saipan, Northern Marianas.

flags shall be flown or displayed at approximately the same level in the following manner of positions: the flag of the United States shall occupy the right-hand position; the flag of Micronesia shall occupy the center position; and the flag of the United Nations shall occupy the left-hand position when looking out from the building or platform. When the flag of the United States is flown or displayed above or higher than the flags of Micronesia and the United Nations, the flag of Micronesia shall occupy the right-hand position in relation to the flag of the United States, when looking forward from the building or platform. The flag of the United States may be flown or displayed above or higher than the flag of Micronesia, but on no account may the flag of Micronesia be flown or displayed above the United States flag; nor may than the flag of United Nations be flown or displayed above or higher than the flag of Micronesia, or vice versa.

When the flag of Micronesia is flown alone at such time as by official order the flag of the United States is being flown at half mast, the flag of Micronesia shall also be flown at half mast.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the High Commissioner.

(signed by)

Speaker, General Assembly

Attest: Legislative Secretary

Approved August 19, 1965

Sgd: M. W. Goding

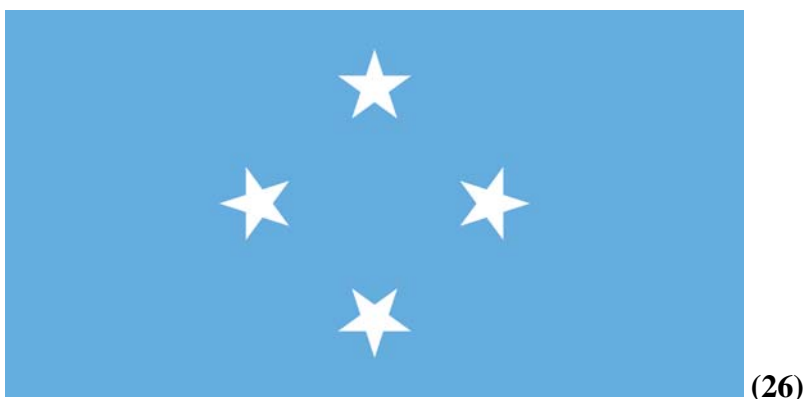
High Commissioner

3. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

3.1. History

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands included the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands, and Palau. The Northern Marianas were granted commonwealth status on 8 January 1978. On 12 July 1978, following a constitutional convention, the people of four of the former districts of the Trust Territory (Kusaie, Ponape, Truk, and Yap) voted in a referendum to form a federation under the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. The Palau District and the Marshall Islands District rejected the proposed constitution.

This action reduced the number of stars in the flag from six to four, the four states of FSM. A flag with four stars was adopted by the Interim Congress of Micronesia on 30 November 1978²⁶ (26).



The Federated States of Micronesia was established on 10 May 1979 with four states: Kusaie (created in 1977), Ponape, Truk, and Yap. Upon implementation of the FSM Constitution, the four states adopted their own constitutions the same day.

The FSM flag became official on 10 November 1979. The light blue represents the Pacific Ocean and the stars represent the four states. The flag's proportions are 10:19 (the same as the flag of the United States).

The compact of Free Association with the U.S. became effective on 3 November 1986 and the Trust Territory was dissolved on 10 July 1987. On 22 December 1990 the U.N. Security Council ratified the termination of trusteeship, the last step toward independence of the Federated States of Micronesia.

3.2. The National Flag

From 27 July to 1 August 2009 I visited Pohnpei and Chuuk, two states of the federation. I saw different versions of the national flag, from light blue to darker blue. It seems that the darker blue is now more in use. The size and position of the stars also vary, probably due to differences in flag manufacturers.

²⁶The Congress of Micronesia was dissolved on 1 November 1978. However, the Interim Congress of Micronesia did not dissolve until 10 May 1979, when the FSM Constitution came into effect. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

The first FSM flag shown (27) is displayed on the wall of the hall of the President’s office in Palikir²⁷. It has a gold fringe. Another flag is hoisted on a flagpole in the same room but the blue is a medium colour²⁸ (28).



(27)



(28)



(29)

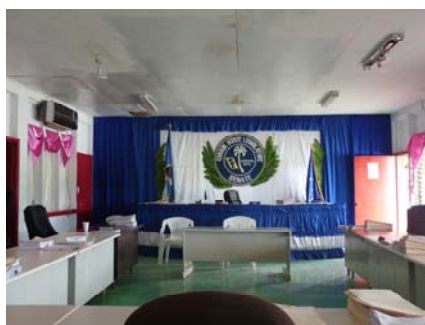


(30)

In the assembly room of the Supreme Court of Justice of FSM²⁹ in Palikir, the national flag (29) is displayed together with the four state flags. The national flag (30) stands, with the Pohnpei State flag, around the desk of the Legislative Assembly of Pohnpei, in Kolonia³⁰. The national flag is displayed in the Assembly hall of the FSM Court of Justice of Chuuk³¹ (31), in Weno and in the Senate of Chuuk³² (32).



(31)



(32)

²⁷ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Palikir, 28 July 2009.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Kolonia, 29 July 2009.

³¹ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Weno, Chuuk, 31 July 2009.

³² Ibid.

In (33) Chief Justice Andon L. Amaraich, President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Micronesia, is giving me a flag. The flag has a medium blue field³³ (34).



(33)



(34)

The national flag of the FSM and the district flags flying in the compound of the Government in Palikir all had dark blue fields³⁴ (35).



(35)



(36)

3.3. Ensign

The ships of the Micronesian Coast Guard³⁵ use the national flag as an ensign (36) (37). The flag is also painted on the ship's cabin (38).



(37)



(38)

³³ Supreme Court of Justice, Palikir, 28 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

³⁴ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

³⁵ Photos by Michel R. Lupant, HMSS *Palikir*, Port Authority, Kolonia, Pohnpei, 28 July 2009.

The national flag is painted on the chimney of this merchant ship³⁶ **(39)**.



(39)

3.4. Presidential Car Flag

The national flag is used by the President as a car flag **(40)**. It is 21.8 x 36.4 cm with a white border of 4 cm³⁷.



(40)



3.5. Flag Law

The first law passed by the First Congress of Micronesia was to establish the national flag³⁸.

³⁶ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, port of Weno, Chuuk State, 31 July 2009.

³⁷ Author's collection.

³⁸ Federated States of Micronesia Code, Title 1. General Provisions 1982.

Chapter 5: Flag

§ 501. *Design designated.*

§ 502. *Display of flags.*

§ 503. *Desecration of flag.*

§ 501. *Design designated.*

There shall be and there is hereby adopted an official flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, which shall consist of a circle of four white stars centered on a field of blue. The width of the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia shall bear a ratio to its length of 1 to 1.9, and the width of the flag to the width of a star the ratio of five to one. The flag may be reproduced for unofficial purposes, with different dimensions³⁹.

§ 502. *Display of flags.*

(1) The flag of the Federated States of Micronesia shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset and during such hours shall be displayed only on buildings, flagstuffs, or halyards.

(2) The flag of the Federated States of Micronesia shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(3) No person shall display any other flag above or in a position of superior prominence or honor to the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia at any place within the Federated States of Micronesia; provided, that this subsection shall not apply to foreign embassies, consulates, diplomatic missions, or the offices of international agencies.

(4) The President may establish rules and procedures for the half-mast display of the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia and the use of the flag at official funerals⁴⁰.

§ 503. *Desecration of flag.*

(1) Any person who knowingly casts contempt upon any flag of the Federated States of Micronesia by publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, or trampling upon it shall be fined not more than \$100, or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

(2) The term “flag of the Federated States of Micronesia” as used in this section shall include an official flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, as described in section 501 of this title, or any reproduction thereof for official or unofficial purposes and having the same or different dimensions as the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia⁴¹.

³⁹ Source: *TT Code 1966 § 15; TT Code 1970, 1 TTC 201; TT Code 1980, 1 TTC 201; PL IC-6 § 1.*

⁴⁰ Source: *TT Code 1966 § 16; TT Code 1970, 1 TTC 202; TT Code 1980, 1 TTC 202; PL IC-6 § 2; PL 4-82 § 1.*

⁴¹ Source: *COM PL 7-135 § 1; TT Code 1980, 1 TTC 203; PL IC-6 § 3.*

4. State of CHUUK (TRUK)

The Truk District was created in 1947 within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In October 1977 it became the State of Truk, part of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). On 24 October 1989 the Constitution changed the name of Truk to Chuuk. This was approved in a referendum, effective retroactively to 1 October 1989.

Chuuk is the most populous state of FSM and is also known as Truk, Ruk, Hogoleu, Torres, Ugulat, and Lugulus. Geographically it is a part of the Caroline Islands group. Chuuk means “mountain” in the Chuukese language.

4.1. The Flag

A competition to select a flag began on 14 February 1979. Participation was limited to Trukese living in the state or abroad. The designs were submitted to the Flag Competition Designing Committee, presided over by the State Director of Public Affairs Iskia E. Sony. The committee chose the three best designs and submitted them to the state legislature.

The prize for the best design was \$500. The winner was Ophin Reselap, a tax collector living on the island of Dublon. His design was flag of blue, to symbolize the ocean, with a central white coconut tree to suggest the natural resources on which the people depend. Around the coconut tree a circle of thirteen white stars to represent the electoral districts of the State of Chuuk (41)⁴². This design is the basis of the present flag.



Senator Valentine Harper disagreed with the number of stars, as it referred to the legislative branch of government but excluded the judiciary and executive branches. Other legislators noted that the number of electoral districts were not necessarily permanent and could be changed in the future.

Finally they modified the number of stars to 38, corresponding to the number of municipalities. The legislature saw the coconut tree as reflecting the major source of agriculture income for the islanders and the blue as a symbol of peace⁴³.

⁴² Reconstruction by Jens Pattke.

⁴³ Smith, Whitney: “The Flag of the State of Truk”, *Flag Bulletin* XIX:2, March–April 1980, pages 39–42.

4.2. Flag with 38 Stars

On 7 September 1979 a law establishing the 38 stars flag was adopted by the legislature (42)⁴⁴ (43)⁴⁵. The official proportions are 10:19 but the law states that the flag may be reproduced in different dimensions for official purposes.

The flags of Chuuk were manufactured in light blue and later in a darker blue.



(42)



(43)

The 38 municipalities were: Dublon, Eot, Ettal, Fanamu, Fanapenges, Fefan, Kuttu, Losap, Lukunor, Magur, Moch, Moen, Murilo, Nama, Namoluk, Nomwin, Onari, Oneop, Ono, Parem, Patta, Pesarach, Pis-Losap, Polle, Pulap, Pulusuk, Puluwat, Romalum, Ruo, Satawan, Ta, Tamatam, Tol, Tsis, Udot, Ulul, Uman, and Wonei.

4.3. Flag Law of TRUK

§ 1051. Flag of the State of Truk.

There shall be and there is hereby adopted an official flag of the State of Truk, which shall consist of 38 white stars encircling a white coconut tree centered on a field of blue. The width of the flag of the State of Truk shall bear a ratio to its length of one to 1.9. The flag may be reproduced for unofficial purposes with different dimensions⁴⁶.

⁴⁴ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁴⁵ Table flag. Collection of Bill Stinnett, Truk Stop Hotel. Photo by Michel R. Lupant, 1 August 2009.

⁴⁶Source: *TSL 2-1-7, § 1 (1)*, as amended by *TSL 2-2-2, § 1*.

§ 1052. *Display of the Flag of the State of Truk.*

(1) *The flag of the State of Truk shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset and during such hours shall be displayed only on buildings, flagstaffs, or halyards.*

(2) *The flag of the State of Truk shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.*

(3) *When the flag of the State of Truk is flown or displayed together with the flag of the United States, the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the flag of the United Nations on separate masts or staffs, it shall be flown or displayed at approximately the same level with the flag of the United States, the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the flag of the United Nations. The flag of the State of Truk shall always be flown or displayed to the immediate left-hand position of the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia when looking out from the building or platform. When the flag of the State of Truk is flown or displayed with the flag of the United States and the flag of the Federated states of Micronesia on a single staff or halyard, the flag of the State of Truk shall be flown or displayed below the flag of Federated States of Micronesia. The flag of the Federated States may be flown or displayed above or higher than the flag of State of Truk, but on no account may the flag of the State of Truk be flown or displayed above the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, nor may the flag of the United nations be flown or displayed above the flag of the State of Truk or vice-versa.*

(4) *When the flag of the State of Truk is flown at the same time as by official order the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia is being flown at half-mast, the flag of the State of Truk shall also be flown at half-mast.*

(5) *The Governor may establish rules and procedures for the half- mast display of the flag of the State of Truk upon the death of a government or traditional leader or distinguished citizen of the State of Truk⁴⁷.*

§ 1053. *Desecration of the Flag of the State of Truk; Penalties.*

(1) *Any person who knowingly casts contempt upon any flag of the State of Truk by publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, or trampling upon it shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.*

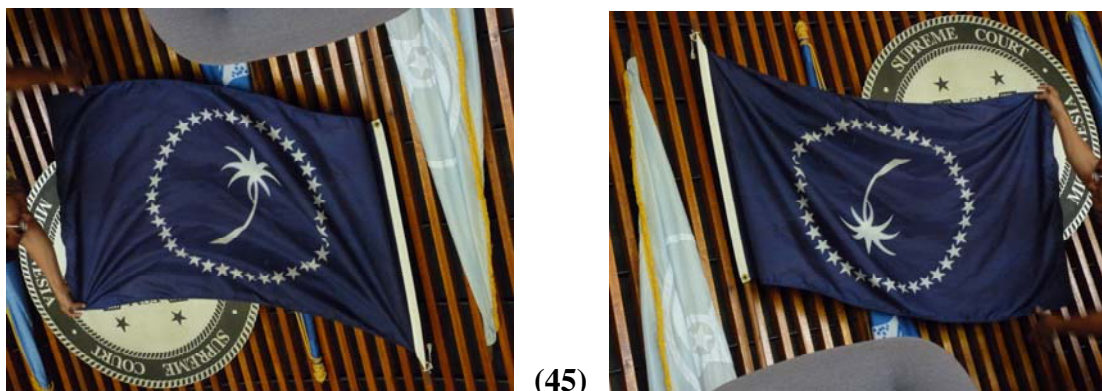
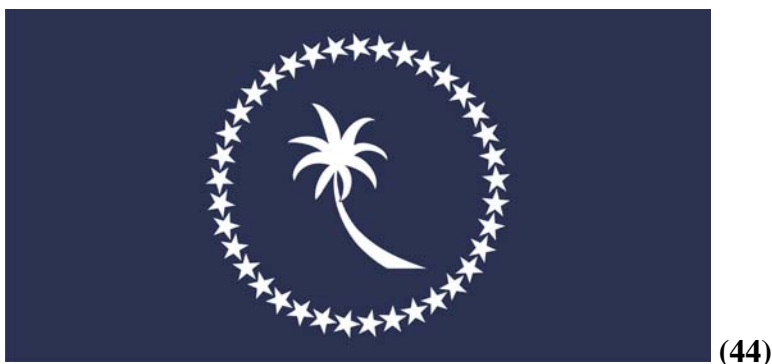
(2) *The term “flag of the State of Truk” as used in this Section shall include an official flag of the State of Truk, as described in Section 1051 of this Chapter, or any reproduction thereof for official or unofficial purposes and having the same or different dimensions as the flag of the State of Truk⁴⁸.*

⁴⁷ Source: TSL 2-1-7, § 1 (2).

⁴⁸ Source: TSL 2-1-7, § 1 (3).

4.4 Flag with 37 Stars

During my trip I saw flags with 37 stars **(44)**⁴⁹. One is displayed in the Federated States of Micronesia Supreme Court Assembly, in Palikir, Pohnpei, but it was hoisted upside down **(45)**⁵⁰! I do not know why there were flags with 37 stars. In Chuuk's Supreme Court (Weno Island) I met Mr. Wilfred S. Robert, Chief of Staff, who wanted to sell me a flag with 37 stars!



4.5. Flag with 39 Stars

When Fono (Fonoton) became a municipality, the number of stars on the flag became 39 **(46)**⁵¹, **(47)**⁵². In the Constitution, Article XIII lists the number of municipalities. With the change of name from Truk to Chuuk, some municipalities also changed their names to be closer to Chuukese language.

Article of the Constitution with 39 municipalities

⁴⁹ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁵⁰ Photo by Michel Lupant, Palikir, Pohnpei, 29 July 2009.

⁵¹ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁵² Collection of Bill Stinnett, Truk Stop Hotel, Weno, Chuuk. Photo by Michel R. Lupant, 1 August 2009

*ARTICLE XIII
MUNICIPALITIES*

Section 1. The two levels of government in the State of Chuuk are state and municipal. The chief executive of a municipality is the Mayor.

*Section 2. The following are the municipalities in the State of Chuuk: Weno, Fono, Tonoas, Fefen, Parem, Siis, Uman, Udot, Eot, Ramanum, Fanapanges, Polle, Paata, Wonei, Tol, Nema, Losap, Piis-
emmwar, Namoluk, Ettal, Moch, Kuttu, Ta, Satowan, Lukunoch, Oneop, Houk, Polowat, Tamatam, Pollap,
Onoun, Makur, Onou, Unanu, Piherarh, Nomwin, Fananu, Ruo, and Murilo.*



(46)



(47)

The flags displayed in the assembly room of the Chuuk Senate (48)⁵³ and in the House of Representatives (49)⁵⁴ have 39 stars.



(48)



(49)

4.5. Flag with 40 Stars

A Third Constitutional Convention for the State of Chuuk was convened and completed its work by passing 14 proposed amendments to the Chuuk State Constitution in October, 2004⁵⁵. These

⁵³ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Senate, Weno, Chuuk, 31 July 2009.

⁵⁴ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, House of Representatives, Weno, Chuuk, 31 July 2009.

⁵⁵ *THIRD CHUUK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION CP No. 3-21; SADI, CHUUK STATE, FEBRUARY 2004 COMMITTEE: GP.*

14 constitutional amendment proposals were approved by the voters of the State of Chuuk in March, 2005.

Article XIII of the 2008 Constitution

A COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Amending Section 2 of Article XIII of the State Chuuk Constitution to include Piis-Panewu as a municipality in the State of Chuuk and to update the names of certain municipalities

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE THIRD CHUUK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

Section 1. Amendment. Section 2 of Article XIII of the Chuuk State Constitution is hereby amended, to read as follows:

“Section 2. The following are the municipalities in the State of Chuuk: Weno-Chóniro, Fonoton, Piis-Panewu, Tonoas, Fefen, Parem, Siis, Uman-Fonuweisom, Udot-Fonuweisom, Eot, Ramanum, Fanapanges, Pwene, Paata-Tupunion, Oneisom, Tolensom, Nema, Losap, Piis-Emwar, Namoluk, Ettal, Moch, Kuttu, Ta, Satowan, Lekinioch, Oneop, Houk, Polowat, Tamatam, Pollap, Onoun, Makur, Onou, Unanu, Piherarh, Nomwin, Fananu, Ruo, and Murilo.”

Signed: _____

Camillo Noket

President

Third Chuuk State

Constitutional Convention

Attested to: _____ Date: _____

Hernak Paul

Secretary

Third Chuuk State

Constitutional Convention

As Piis-Panewu became the 40th municipality, a star was added to the flag **(50)**⁵⁶, **(51)**⁵⁷.



(50)



(51)

⁵⁶ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁵⁷ Author's collection, 2009.

During my visit in Palikir, Pohnpei, on 29 July 2009, the flag of Chuuk was hoisted at half-mast at the FSM Government compound, in memory of the death of a senator from Yap⁵⁸ (52).



(52)

4.5. Flag Law of CHUUK⁵⁹

In the references below, references to Truk have been changed to Chuuk in accordance with CSC § 1252.

§ 1051. Flag of the State of Chuuk.

There shall be and there is hereby adopted an official flag of the State of Chuuk, which shall consist of 38 white stars encircling a white coconut tree centered on a field of blue. The width of the flag of the State of Chuuk shall bear a ratio to its length of one to 1.9. The flag may be reproduced for unofficial purposes with different dimensions⁶⁰.

§ 1052. Display of the Flag of the State of Chuuk.

(1) The flag of the State of Chuuk shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset and during such hours shall be displayed only on buildings, flagstuffs, or halyards.

(2) The flag of the State of Chuuk shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

(3) When the flag of the State of Chuuk is flown or displayed together with the flag of the United States, the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the flag of the United Nations on separate masts or staffs, it shall be flown or displayed at approximately the same level with the flag of the United States, the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the flag of the United Nations. The flag of the State of Chuuk shall always be flown or displayed to the immediate left-hand position of the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia when looking out from the building or platform. When the flag of the State of Chuuk is flown or displayed with the flag of the United States and the flag of the Federated states of Micronesia on a single staff or halyard, the flag of the State of Chuuk shall be flown or displayed below the flag of Federated States of Micronesia. The flag of the Federated States may be flown or displayed above or higher than the flag of State of Chuuk, but on no account may the flag of the State of Chuuk be flown or displayed above the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia, nor may the flag of the United nations be flown or displayed above the flag of the State of Chuuk or vice-versa.

⁵⁸ Photo by Michel R. Lupant.

⁵⁹ www.fsmlaw.org/chuuk/.../T01_Ch02.htm.

⁶⁰ Source: TSL 2-1-7, § 1 (1), as amended by TSL 2-2-2, § 1, modified.

(4) When the flag of the State of Chuuk is flown at the same time as by official order the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia is being flown at half-mast, the flag of the State of Chuuk shall also be flown at half-mast.

(5) The Governor may establish rules and procedures for the half- mast display of the flag of the State of Chuuk upon the death of a government or traditional leader or distinguished citizen of the State of Chuuk⁶¹.

§ 1053. Desecration of the Flag of the State of Chuuk; Penalties.

(1) Any person who knowingly casts contempt upon any flag of the State of Chuuk by publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, or trampling upon it shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

(2) The term “flag of the State of Chuuk” as used in this Section shall include an official flag of the State of Chuuk, as described in Section 1051 of this Chapter, or any reproduction thereof for official or unofficial purposes and having the same or different dimensions as the flag of the State of Chuuk⁶².

This version of the Chuuk State Code (CSC) is the 2001 Draft Version⁶³. It was developed by the LIS Project, with the assistance of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Chuuk State Legislature, which supplied over half of the code titles in preliminary draft form. This was the first attempted codification of the laws of the State of Chuuk since the Truk District Code (TDC) was published in 1970.

4.6. Municipalities⁶⁴

Of the 40 municipalities of the state, 16 fall within Truk Lagoon and 24 in the Outer Islands.

Northern Nomoneas (Shiki) Islands, Truk Lagoon:

- Weno (Moen), Fono, Pis-Paneu

Southern Nomoneas (Shiki) Islands, Truk Lagoon:

- Fefan, Tonowas, Uman (including uninhabited Kuop (Neoch) Atoll), Parama, Tsis (Fiis)

Faichuk (Shichiyo) Islands, Truk Lagoon:

- Tol, Wonei (Onei), Polle, Paata (Pata)

Nomwisofu:

- Udot, Fanapanges, Romanum, Eot

Hall Islands (north):

- Nomwin (including uninhabited Fayu Island), Fananu (eastern islets of Nomwin Atoll), Murilo, Ruo (southeast islet of Murilo Atoll)

Namonuito Atoll (Magur Islands) (northwest):

- Pisasas, Magur (Makur), Ono, Onari (Unanu), Ulul

⁶¹ Source: *TSL 2-1-7*, § 1 (2), modified.

⁶² Source: *TSL 2-1-7*, § 1 (3), modified.

⁶³ This draft version of the Code contains Chuuk State Laws up through CSL 6-01-04. It includes permanent Truk District Laws (TDL), Truk State Laws (TSL), and Chuuk State Laws (CSL). It also includes selected Trust Territory Code (TTC) provisions that continue in effect in the State of Chuuk.

⁶⁴ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chuuk.

Pattiw (Western Islands):

- Pollap (north islet of Pollap Atoll), Tamatam (south islet of Pollap Atoll, with Fanadik islet in the center), Houk (formerly known as Pulusuk), Poluwat (Puluwat)

Eastern Islands (Upper Mortlock Islands):

- Nama, Losap, Pis-Losap (islet of Losap Atoll), Namoluk

Mortlock Islands:

- Ettal, Lukunor, Oneop (west islet of Lukunor Atoll), Satawan, Kutu (west islet of Satawan Atoll), Moch (north islet of Satawan Atoll), Ta (southeast islet of Satawan Atoll)

4.7. *Flags of Municipalities*⁶⁵

It is very difficult to receive information from the municipalities. The photographs were taken during local demonstrations and I have not found information about the symbolism of these flags. The illustrations shown are the only we have found. Perhaps other municipalities have flags.

4.7.1. *Fanapanges*⁶⁶

The municipality has two flags. The first (53) has three horizontal stripes of blue, white, and blue with the seal in the center



(53)



The second flag (54) is violet with a red fringe. It shows a local fish surrounded by five stars.



(54)



⁶⁵ Photos sent by Larry Wentworth, Weno, Chuuk. Drawings by Jens Pattke.

⁶⁶ Letter from Larry Wentworth, Weno, Chuuk, 29 September 2010.

4.7.2. *Fonoton*

The municipality's flag is white with the local seal (55).



(55)



4.7.3. *Houk*

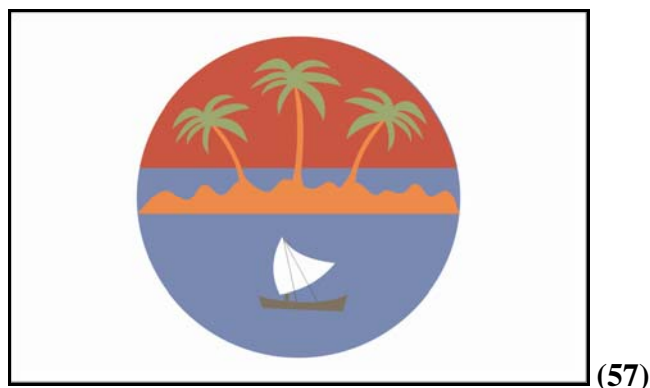
The flag is blue with the seal in white, red, and green (56).



(56)

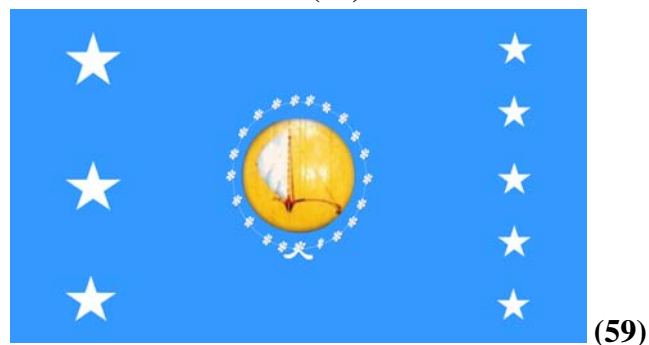
4.7.4. *Kuttu*⁶⁷

The flag is white with the seal (57).



4.7.5. *Moch*

The flag is blue with a local boat and three white stars (58)⁶⁸. The flags displayed on the wall of its official building are the reverses of the Federated States of Micronesia, Moch Municipality, and Chuuk State.



⁶⁷ Letter from Larry Wentworth, Weno, Chuuk, 15 May 2010.

⁶⁸ <http://www.lienpukial.com/Pictures.html>. Communication from Jens Pattke, 28 May 2011.

A new Moch Island flag (59) was officially adopted on June 6, 2011. The flag has a light blue field for the peaceful; the three stars represent the three villages on Moch Island and the five stars represent the five clans on Moch. Our seal comes from our custom canoe, made by hand. Moch's history was about a flying canoe under a full Moon night. So the full moon represent "Poonguun uur" (Full Moon). The lei represent the 21 people who were created the constitutional day on Moch⁶⁹.

4.7.6. Paata⁷⁰

The flag is light blue with the municipal seal showing different local emblems (60).



(60)



4.7.7. Siis (Tsis)

The flag is green with the seal. The blue stars have eight points (61).



(61)



⁶⁹ Letter from Judy Kiawol from Moch, 18 June 2011.

⁷⁰ Letter from Larry Wentworth, Weno, Chuuk, 29 September 2010.

4.7.8. Tonoas⁷¹

Tonoas/Tonowas, also known by its Spanish name, *Dublón*, is an island in the Chuuk lagoon. It has an area of 8.8 km² and the population was 3,200 at the last census (1980). *Dublón* was a headquarters for the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second World War. The Japanese name for it was *Natsu Shima*, which means “Summer Island”. The flag is light blue with a large white star and a green dove with the words *E KOI EPWE SARAM EPWE RAAN* (62).



(62)



4.7.9. Weno

Weno (formerly Moen) is an island municipality located in the Chuuk Lagoon and serves as the main center of commerce and is also the state capital. It has a population of approximately 6,000 to 7,000. The flag I saw is dark green with a white seal. It has yellow fringes. The mountain in the seal is probably Mt. Tenaachaw. According to legend, when *Sowukachaw* (the chief of the first people to settle these islands) arrived on Chuuk, he stuck a lump of basalt rock on the summit of Mt. Tenaachaw and built a meeting house from which he ruled all of Chuuk lagoon. The steep-sided 230-meter mountain is the backdrop for the airport and harbor. The flag is displayed inside the municipal building (63)⁷².



(63)



⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Weno, 31 July 2009.

5. State of POHNPEI (PONAPE)

Pohnpei (formerly Ponape), means “upon (*pohn*) a stone altar (*pei*)” and is situated among the Senyavin Islands, part of the Caroline Islands group. Pohnpei Island is the largest, highest, most populous, and most developed single island in the FSM. Palikir, the FSM’s capital, is on Pohnpei Island.

Nan Madol, the capital of the Saudeleur dynasty until about 1500 AD, was also on Pohnpei; it is currently in ruins offshore. Pohnpei was first sighted by Europeans in 1828. In 1898 Spain sold the island to the German Empire. The island was part of a Japanese Mandate in World War II and became part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands on 2 April 1947.

5.1. The Flag

Ponape was the first district in the Trust Territory to adopt its own flag⁷³.

The flag contest was authorized by law in 1976. A legislative committee, headed by legislator Bernard Helgenberger, reviewed the designs and selected the winning design. The Ponape flag was designed by a PICS High School student, Rosendo Alex, of Sokehs. He was one of the 60 people who submitted the designs to the Ponape legislature. Alex received \$100 for the design. The pattern was adopted in December 1977.

The flag⁷⁴ **(64)** **(65)**⁷⁵ has a field of light blue and six white stars, similar to the Trust Territory flag. The six white stars represent the six islands in the district: Kapingamarangi, Mokil, Ngatik, Nukuoro, Pingelap, and Ponape. The Ponape flag contains half of a coconut shell symbolizing the *sakau* cup used during traditional ceremonies. *Sakau* is a Ponapean drink extracted from *kava* roots and hibiscus barks. It is used during traditional ceremonies.

The wreath of coconut leaves symbolize the Ponape people’s dependency on coconut resources. The palm leaves are on a white background to make the green color easily seen in the field of blue.

The Ponape District became the state of Ponape in May 1978. On 8 November 1984 the name of Ponape was changed to Pohnpei.

⁷³ Communication from Larry Wentworth, Weno, Chuuk.

⁷⁴ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁷⁵ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Supreme Court of Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia, Palikir, Pohnpei, 28 July 2009.



On 6 December 1990 the legislature approved a new flag for the State⁷⁶ (66) (67)⁷⁷. The number of stars changed from six to eleven, for the number of municipalities: Kapingara-mangi, Kitti, Kolonia, Madolenihmw, Mwoakilloa, Nett, Nukuoro, Pingelap, Sapwuahfik, Sokehs, and U. The flag became official in 1992. The emblems are described in Chapter 6: Names, Emblems, Symbols, and Anthem of the Constitution and in the digital code:



⁷⁶ Drawing by Jorge Hurtado.

⁷⁷ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Pohnpei Legislature, 28 July 2009.

Division I, Title I, General (1 January 2006).

SECOND POHNPEI LEGISLATURE
EIGHT SPECIAL SESSION, 1990

L. B. No. 510-90

S. L. No. 2L-172-90

AN ACT

Designating the Official Flag of Pohnpei; relating to the display thereof; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE POHNPEI LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Flag of Pohnpei. There shall be and is hereby designated an official flag of Pohnpei, selected as the winning design pursuant to State Law No. 3L-135-75, as amended, and as modified herein. The official flag shall consist of a circle of eleven white stars and a “kouwa” surrounded by palm leaves, centered on a field of blue. The width of the flag of Pohnpei shall bear a ratio to its length of 1 to 1,9. The design of the official flag of Pohnpei shall be as depicted on the first official flag flown by order of the Governor on the effective date of this section⁷⁸. The Flag may be reproduced for unofficial purposes with different dimensions, but the design thereof shall be an accurate depiction of the first flag⁷⁹.

Section 2. Display of the flag.

(1) The Flag of Pohnpei shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset and during such hours shall be displayed only on buildings, flagstaffs or halyards;

(2) The Flag of Pohnpei shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously;

(3) When the flag of Pohnpei is flown or displayed together with other official flags, it shall be flown or displayed at approximately the same level and shall occupy the left-hand position when looking from the building or platform;

(4) When, by appropriate proclamation, other flags are flown at half-mast, the flag of Pohnpei shall likewise be flown at half-mast; and

(5) The Governor of Pohnpei shall establish rules and regulations for the half-mast display of the flag of Pohnpei upon the death of a government or traditional leader or distinguished citizen or friend of Pohnpei⁸⁰.

PASSED BY THE POHNPEI LEGISLATURE ON THE 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1990;

(signature)

Speaker, Pohnpei Legislature

Attest: signature)

Legislative Clerk

Approved: (signature)⁸¹

Governor, Pohnpei

12/12/90

Date

⁷⁸ 8 November 1991.

⁷⁹ State Law No. 2L-172-90 §1, 11/8/91.

⁸⁰ State Law No. 2L-172-90 §2, 11/8/91.

⁸¹ Governor Resio S. Moses (from 1 May 1983 to 3 January 1992).

5.2. *Flags of Municipalities*

Of the eleven municipalities, eight have adopted a flag. These flags are displayed in the Pohnpei Legislature Assembly⁸² (68). At the time of my visit they awaited the new adopted flag of Mwoakilloa. Many of these municipalities have put stars on their flag, probably to represent the villages. It was impossible to find information on the symbolism of these flags.



It is the reverse of the flags which is shown. From left to right (attached to the wall): Nett, Sokehs, Kitti, U, Madolenihmw, Kapingamarangi, and Kolonia.

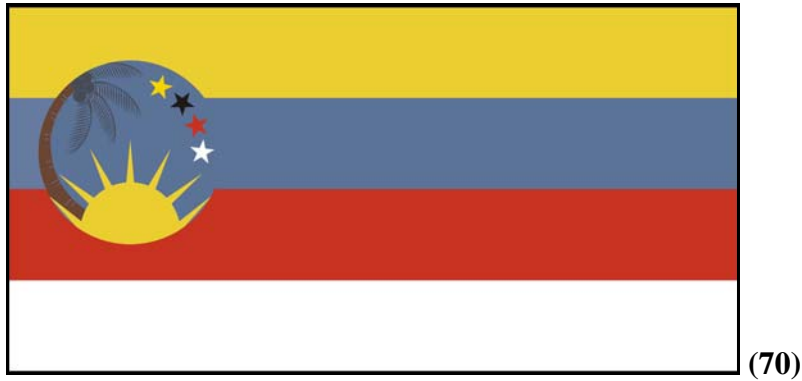
5.2.1. *Kapingamarangi*

The municipality has a total area, including the lagoon, of 74 km². Out of this, 1.1 km² is land. It has a population of about 500 (as of 2007). Their language is Polynesian. The main industry is fishing. The Kapingamarangans refer to themselves as “Kirinese” and are known for their handicrafts, with the men carving and the women weaving. They typically carve various trinkets out of the flesh of an ivory nut. They are also known for their shark carvings, wall hangings, mobiles, woven mats, shell jewelry, and turtle-shaped ukuleles. Their flag⁸³ (69) (70) has four horizontal stripes, yellow, blue, red, and white, and a blue oval placed near the hoist on the top three stripes, showing a brown-trunked coconut tree with green leaves and fruit, a large yellow rising sun and four stars in yellow, black, red, and white.



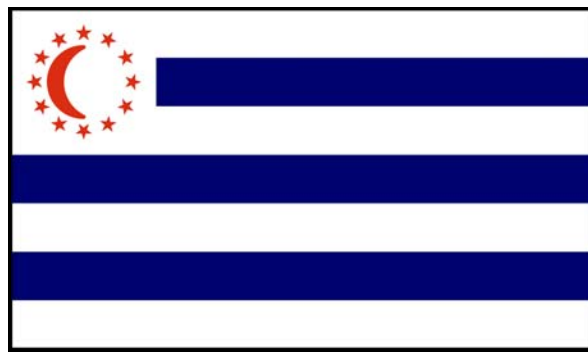
⁸² Photos by Michel R. Lupant, 28 July 2009.

⁸³ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Pohnpei Legislature, 29 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.



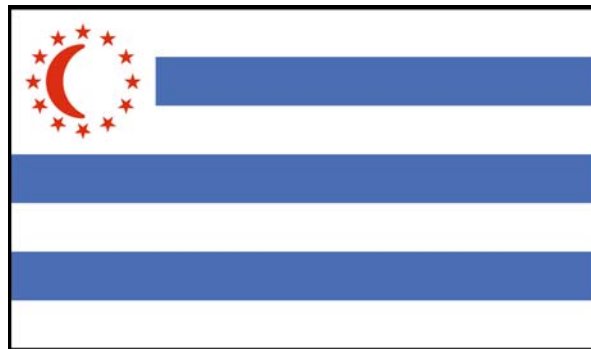
5.2.2. Kitti

Kitti is located in the southwest of Pohnpei Island, to the south of Mount Nahna Laud. The municipal flag⁸⁴ (71) is white with three blue stripes, a red-orange crescent and twelve stars.



(71)

When visiting the municipality of Kitti I have seen the Kitti and Pohnpei flags⁸⁵ flying on front of a building. The blue stripes were lighter and the Pohnpei flag was very light blue (72).



(72)

⁸⁴ Ibid.

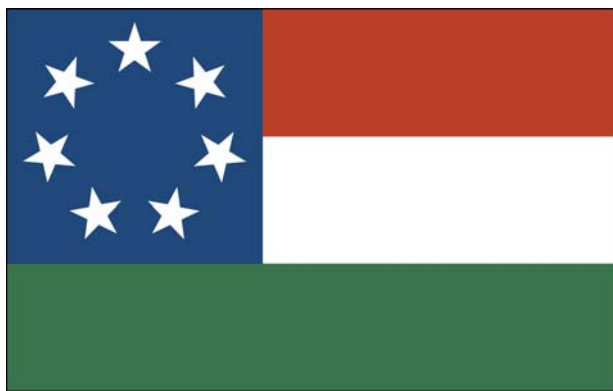
⁸⁵ Ibid.

5.2.3. *Kolonia*

The town of Kolonia is located on the north side of Pohnpei island. The population of the town is 6,068 (2010). It is by far the largest population center on Pohnpei and the commercial center of the island. The flag⁸⁶ (73) is a tricolour of red, white, and green with a blue canton and seven white stars.



(73)



5.2.4. *Madolenihmw*

Madolenihmw is one of the administrative divisions of Pohnpei, located in the central east of the island. The coast of Madolenihmw includes a large bay which contains the island of Temwen, famous for its *Nan Madol* ruins.

The flag⁸⁷ (74) (75) has eleven horizontal stripes: the five white stripes are half the width of the six red stripes, and a white-edged light blue canton bearing a white disk with the municipal arms. Within the seal appear the ruins of *Nan Madol*.

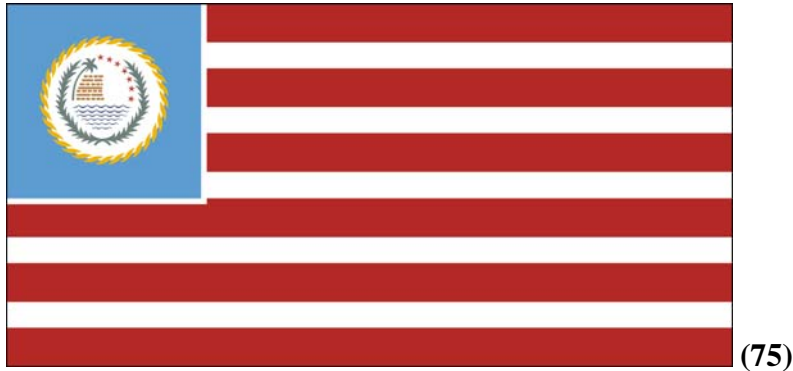


(74)



⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Pohnpei Legislature, 29 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

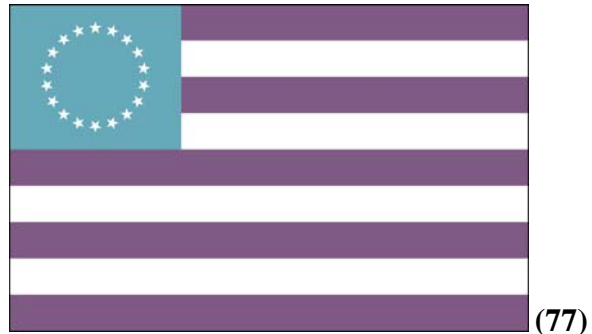


5.2.5. Mwoakilloa (Mokil)

Mwoakilloa, also Mokil, was previously named *Wellington Island* or *Duperrey Island*. It lies 153 km east of Pohnpei. The atoll consists of three islands *Urak*, *Kahlap (Mokil)*, and *Manton*, forming a central lagoon of approximately 2 km². Only the northeast island Kahlap is inhabited, with the town facing the lagoon. The total area of all islands is approximately 1.24 km².

The population of Mokil is decreasing, standing at only 147 in 2008. The inhabitants speak Mokilese, similar to the Pohnpeian language in the family of Micronesian languages.

The municipality flag and seal⁸⁸ (76) were adopted in 2009. The flag is a tricolour of orange, white, and green. At the hoist are a blue triangle for the ocean and three white stars for the islands of Urak, Kahlap, and Manton.



5.2.6. Nett

Nett is one of the six municipalities located on the main island of Pohnpei. It corresponds to the north-central sector of the island. The population is 5,139 (2000). Nett municipality formerly included Kolonia, now a separate administrative division.

⁸⁸ Pohnpei Legislature 2010.

The flag⁸⁹ (77)(78) has nine horizontal stripes, light purple and white, with a light blue canton bearing a ring of 18 white stars.



(78)



5.2.7. *Nukuoro*

Nukuoro is the southernmost atoll and municipality of the country. Nukuoro has a population of 372 (2007). The total area, including the lagoon, is 40 km², with a land area of only 1.7 km², which is divided among more than 40 islets. The largest islet is Nukuoro, the center of population and the capital of the municipality. The inhabitants speak the Nukuoro language, which is closely related to the Kapingamarangi language and is a Polynesian dialect related to Samoan and Tokelauan. Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi constitute parts of the “Polynesian outlier” cultures lying well outside the Polynesian Triangle⁹⁰. The municipality has not yet adopted a flag.

5.2.8. *Pingelap*

Pingelap is an atoll consisting of three islands: Pingelap Island, Sukoru, and Daekae, linked by a reef system and surrounding a central lagoon, although only Pingelap Island is inhabited. The entire land area is 1.8 km² (455 acres) at high-tide. The atoll has its own Micronesian language, Pingelapese, spoken by most of the atoll’s 250 residents⁹¹.

The municipality has not yet adopted a flag.

⁸⁹ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Pohnpei Legislature, 29 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁹⁰ Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

⁹¹ Ibid.

5.2.9. *Sapwuahfik*

For Europeans, the atoll was discovered in 1773 by Felipe Tompson. Formerly called Ngatik Atoll, it consists of ten small islands and islets, all of which are low, flat, and densely covered with coconut palms. The lagoon measures 78.56 km², and the total area is 114 km². The aggregate land area of the 10 islands is 1.75 km², of which the main island, Ngatik, is 0.91 km², or more than half. While Ngatik is the only inhabited island, the six larger of the remaining islands are used by the population for harvesting coconuts and growing taro, and for animal husbandry (pigs and chicken)⁹².

The municipality of Sapwuahfik has not yet adopted a flag.

5.2.10. *Sokehs*

Sokehs is a village and municipality on the main island of the state of Pohnpei. Palikir, the federal capital, is located in this municipality. Sokehs Island is the location of Sokehs Rock, a prominent cliff face that is one of Micronesia's best-known geographic features.

The flag⁹³ (79) (80) has a blue field with a yellow 21-pointed star with a ring of 21 small five-pointed stars around it, one for each ray, pointing outwards and also in yellow. The large star contains the municipal emblem, consisting of a white oval ring bearing a wreath of two palms, joined with a white ribbon bearing the word "SOKEHS" in black letters. The wreath encloses a green hilly island (probably the Sokehs Rock) atop blue-white waves symbolizing the ocean, and four black-edged white stars arranged in an arc in the yellow sky above it. The waves are charged with a *sakau* cup.



(79)



⁹² Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

⁹³ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Pohnpei Legislature, 29 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.



(80)

5.2.11. U

U is a municipality located in the main island of Pohnpei. It corresponds to the northeastern sector of the island. U had 2,289 inhabitants according to the 2008 census. Alohapw is the main town.

The flag⁹⁴ (81) is light blue with a wreath of laurel branches encircling five white stars. It resembles the United Nations flag.



(81)



5.3. Police

The flag⁹⁵ (82) of the 1st Pohnpei State Police Academy is dark blue field with gold laurel branches enclosing many elements: the gold head of an eagle with small wings over a gold ribbon with the word “POLICE” in white.

Below that, a pair of handcuffs hanging down over an 8-pointed police star inside two white circles and crossed horizontally by a white flashlight. On either side there are two green palm trees and two palm leaves. In the centre, below the handcuffs, is an open book in white with the device of the police: “COURTESY INTEGRITY SERVICE” on separate lines. Below it is a

⁹⁴ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Pohnpei Legislature, 29 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

⁹⁵ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Police and Fire Headquarters, Kolonia, Pohnpei, 27 July 2009.

five-pointed gold star bracketed by two white police nightsticks. Finally, below the emblem, a white ribbon reads “1st PHONPEI POLICE ACADEMY 2001” in blue.



(82)

6. State of KOSRAE (*KUSAIE*)

During the Trust Territory (TTPI) period, Kusaie was initially administered as one of the municipalities of the Ponape (Pohnpei) District, but in 1977 became a separate district. It is the only one-island FSM state (including the seven or eight small nearshore islands within the fringing reef), while the other three states are each composed of many islands.

Until 1977, Kosrae was subdivided into districts or villages at the sub-municipality level: Lelu, Malem, Tafunsak, Utwa, and Walung.

By 1980, five municipalities had been created from the former villages or districts: Lelu (created from the villages of Lelu district (island) and Yepen district); Malem (created from Malem district); Utwa (created from Utwa district); Tafunsak (created from the northeastern part of Tafunsak district); and Walung (created from the southwestern part of Tafunsak district). The number of municipalities has subsequently decreased to four (by integrating Walung into Tafunsak)⁹⁶.

The Constitution of Kosrae was adopted by the First Constitutional Convention on 1 April 1983 and ratified by referendum on 15 October 1983. The effective date of the Constitution was 11 January 1984.

6.1. *The Flag*

The flag and the seal adopted for Kosrae are the winners of a competition. The entry submitted by Nena T. Lonno was chosen for the flag and the entry of Mr. Alokoa Talley was chosen for the seal. They became official after adoption by the Kosrae State Legislature on 28 July 1981⁹⁷:

⁹⁶ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosrae.

⁹⁷ Communication from Fred S. Skilling for Governor Jacob Nena, 2 June 1982.

The four Stars represent the four main villages of Kosrae. The two branches are for Peace and Unity. The Fafa pounder stone displays the power of culture, Custom and strong. The background of the flag is Blue for our rich and peaceful ocean.

The two branches are two palm fronds standing for copra, the island's major export product. *Fafa* is a local name of a food made from taro, bananas, and sugar using the *fafa* pounder. A feast is not truly traditional unless it has *fafa* on its menu⁹⁸.

During my visit in Palikir (Pohnpei Island) to the Supreme Court of Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia I saw a flag of Kosrae displayed in the meeting room⁹⁹ (83) (84) (85)¹⁰⁰, the proportions appear to be 3:5. The emblems on the flag are larger and the *Fafa* Pounder Stone is more decorated, perhaps it is the original version of the Kosrae flag.



(83)



(84)



(85)

⁹⁸ Information provided by Tosie K. Elley, Chief Clerk to Jos Poels on 25 March 1993.

⁹⁹ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, 28 July 2009.

¹⁰⁰ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

The flag which flies at present time, has a smaller design and the *Fafa* pounder stone is not as detailed and is fully white (86) (87)¹⁰¹.



(86)



(87)

6.2. *The Flag Law*

The Second Kosrae State Legislature of 1992 confirmed the choice of the flag and of the seal.

*SECOND KOSRAE STATE LEGISLATURE
FOURTY REGULAR SESSION, 1992*

L.R.No.2-206

A RESOLUTION

Adopting a State Flag and a State Seal.

WHEREAS, K.S.L. No. 2-99 established the State Flag and Seal Commission for the purpose of selecting a state flag and a state seal; and

WHEREAS, the said Commission accepted 43 entries for the state flag and 34 entries for a state seal pursuant to a duly conducted contest; and

WHEREAS, the entry submitted by Mr. Nena T. Lonno was chosen by the Commission on July 22, 1981, to be the state flag; and

WHEREAS the entry submitted by Mr. Alokoa Talley was chosen by the Commission on July 22, 1981, to be the state seal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Second Kosrae State Legislature, Fourth Regular Session, 1981, that the entry of Mr. Nena T. Lonno for a state flag and the entry of Mr. Alokoa Talley for a state seal are hereby adopted as the Kosrae State Flag and the Kosrae State Seal; respectively, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Kosrae, Mr. Nena T. Lonno and Mr. Alokoa Talley.

Date: July 28, 1981

*Introduced by: (s)¹⁰²
Gaius F. Nedlic*

¹⁰¹ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, Palikir, Government of FSM, 28 July 2009. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

¹⁰² Signature.

6.3. Flag of the Municipality of Tafunsak

Tafunsak is the largest settlement on the island of Kosrae. Its population was 2,128 at the 2000 census¹⁰³. The word “Tafunsak” means “half forest and half beach”, the forest referring to the island’s tropical jungles. The municipality has adopted a flag¹⁰⁴ **(88)**.

The medium-blue flag has a UN-style wreath enclosing a coastal scene, with a beach, an elevation in the background, a palm tree, a beached outrigger canoe, a sailboat offshore, and an airplane above. Four blue stars form an inverted arc below.



(88)



7. State of YAP

Yap adopted a flag on 30 May 1980. It was designed by John Gilinung and was first used on 1 March 1981 during Yap Day. The flag is blue and depicts a Yapese style outrigger canoe used in traditional navigation. On the centre a white ring encloses the stylized silhouette of a Yapese canoe with sail hoisted, a *Rai* or *Fei* (the stone money of the islands), and a five-pointed star, symbolizing navigation. The blue background represents the open sea. The proportions have been variably reported as 3:5 and 37:70 (and later 36:72 or 1:2).

During my visit in Palikir (Pohnpei Island) at the Supreme Court of Justice of the Federated States of Micronesia, I saw a very pale blue flag of Yap, displayed in the meeting room¹⁰⁵ **(89)** **(90)** **(91)**¹⁰⁶, the proportions appear to be 3:5.

¹⁰³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tafunsak>.

¹⁰⁴ Photo by Larry Wentworth, Weno, Chuuk Island. Drawing by Jens Pattke.

¹⁰⁵ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, 28 July 2009.

¹⁰⁶ Drawing by Jens Pattke.



(89)



(90)



(91)



(92)

In Palikir, medium blue flags of Yap (92) are displayed in the compound of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia¹⁰⁷ (93)¹⁰⁸. At the time of my visit the flags of the Federation and of the four States were at half-mast after the death of a senator from Yap.



(93)



(94)

Mr. Garrett Johnson, webmaster of the Yap State Government, sent me some information on local emblems¹⁰⁹; a picture of the flag shows a different size (94).

¹⁰⁷ Photo by Michel R. Lupant, 28 July 2009.

¹⁰⁸ Drawing by Jens Pattke.

¹⁰⁹ Department of Youth and Civic Affairs, Colonia, Yap, 13 May 2011. www.yapstategov.org.

7.1. Flag Law of 1980 (95)

BILL NO. 1-169¹¹⁰

FIRST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1980

YAP STATE LAW NO. 1-51

AN ACT

To adopt the official flag of the State of Yap, to provide for its display and use, to appropriate funds for its production of purchase, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Yap State.

Section 1. Flag of the State. The official flag of the State of Yap shall be a white star, circled by a white traditional sailing canoe, enclosed by a white circle, centered in a field of blue. The dimensions¹¹¹ shall be as follows:

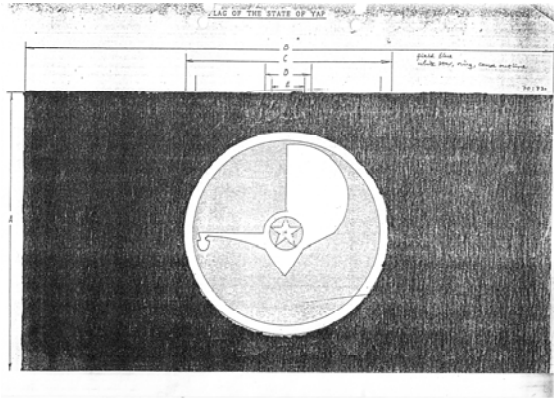
- (1) The length of the flag shall be seventy inches.*
- (2) The width of the flag shall be thirty-seven inches.*
- (3) The star shall be three and one-half inches in diameter.*
- (4) The circle around the star shall be six inches in diameter.*
- (5) The circle around the canoe shall be twenty-six and one-half inches in diameter with a width of one inch.*
- (6) The proportions of the figures shall be as in the flag attached to and incorporated in this subchapter.*

Section 2. Display of the Flag.

- (1) The flag of the State of Yap shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset and during such hours shall be displayed only on buildings, flagstuffs, or halyards.*
- (2) The flag of the State of Yap shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.*
- (3) When the flag of the State of Yap is flown or displayed together with the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia on separate masts or staffs, it shall be flown or displayed at the same level*

¹¹⁰ Communication: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Office of the District Administrator, Yap district, Yap, Western Caroline Islands 96943.

¹¹¹ A hand-made correction indicates on the document the following size: 72" x 36".



(95)



7.2. Flag from the Constitution¹¹²

YSC, Title 1. General Provision

Chapter 5. Emblems and Symbols

Subchapter I: Flag

§501. Flag of the State.

§502. Display of the Flag

§503. Desecration of the flag; penalties

§501. Flag of the State.

The official flag of the State of Yap shall be a white star, circled by a white traditional sailing canoe, enclosed by a white circle, centered in a field of blue. The dimensions¹¹³ shall be as follows:

(a) The length of the flag shall be seventy inches.

(b) The width of the flag shall be thirty-seven inches.

(c) The star shall be three and one-half inches in diameter.

(d) The circle around the star shall be six inches in diameter.

(e) The circle around the canoe shall be twenty-six and one-half inches in diameter with a width of one inch.

(f) The proportions of the figures shall be as in the flag attached to and incorporated in this subchapter¹¹⁴.

§502. Display of the flag.

¹¹² Yap State Code 2000

¹¹³ The size correction of 1980 is forgotten.

¹¹⁴ Source: *YSL 1-51 §1*, modified.

(a) *The flag of the State of Yap shall be displayed in the open only from sunrise until sunset and during such hours shall be displayed only on buildings, flagstuffs, or halyards.*

(b) *The flag of the State of Yap shall be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.*

(c) *When the flag of the State of Yap is flown or displayed together with the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia on separate masts or staffs, it shall be flown or displayed at the same level.*

(d) *When the flag of the State of Yap is flown or displayed together with the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia on a single staff or halyard, the flag of the State of Yap shall be flown or displayed below the flag of the Federated States of Micronesia.*

(e) *The Governor may establish rules and procedures for the half-mast display of the flag of the State of Yap upon the death of a government or traditional leader or distinguished citizen of the State or Federated States of Micronesia, and may establish other rules and procedures for the display of the flag consistent with the provisions of this subchapter¹¹⁵.*

§503. *Desecration of the flag; penalties.*

(a) *A person who knowingly casts contempt upon any flag of the State of Yap by publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning, or trampling upon it shall be fined not more than \$100.00 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.*

(b) *The term “flag of the State of Yap” as used in this section shall include the official flag as described in section 501 of this subchapter or any reproduction thereof for official or unofficial purposes and having the same or different dimensions¹¹⁶.*

Cross-reference: Section 501 of this subchapter is on the flag of the State and contains a detailed description of the official State flag.

Acknowledgments

I would very much like to thank Ted Kaye, Jens Pattke, Bill Stinnett, and Larry Wentworth for their help with this paper, and all the people in Micronesia who gave me such a friendly welcome during my trip.

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¹¹⁵ Source: *YSL 1-51* §2, modified.

¹¹⁶ Source: *YSL 1-51* §3, modified.

About the Author



Michel R. LUPANT

Born 1 August 1944 in Frameries, Belgium. Married on 21 March 1970; 4 children. Teacher of Geography and Sciences, June 1964 to September 2004.

- **1st Class Civic Cross (Belgian Order of Merit)** granted by HM the King of the Belgians, Albert II, in November 2001.
- **Knight of the Cross of Merit**, Robert de Caluwé International Heraldry Award in the category of Vexillology, Helsinki, 6 May 2005.
- “**Membre d’Honneur**”, Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Culturales (CIDEDEC) de la República Argentina, 19 décembre 1994. (Member of Honour of CIDEDEC, Argentina).
- “**Medalla conmemorativa** del vigésimo aniversario de la Sociedad Española de Vexilología”. Madrid, 25 de Junio de 1999. (Commemorative Medal of the XXXth anniversary of the Spanish Vexillological Association).
- “**Diploma Membru de Onore** “Societatea Română de Vexilologie”, Bucaresti, 25 noiembrie 1999. (Member of Honour of the Romanian Vexillological Association).
- **Freeman (Citoyen d’Honneur)** of his City: **Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)**, 27 January 2006.
- **Fellow** of the **Czech Vexillological Society**, Pribyslav, 14 June 2008.
- **Honored Guest of the State of Texas**, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, **Austin**, 7 October 2008.
- **Knight of the Order of Crown** granted by His Majesty the King of the Belgians, Albert II by a Royal Decree dated 26 April 2009 with rank dated 8 April 2004.

- **Member** of the *Conseil d'Héraldique et de Vexillologie de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (ex-Communauté française de Belgique)*, Brussels, 2011.

Hobbies: vexillology (study of flags), philately, and travel (160 countries since 1962).

Founder of the *Centre Belgo-Européen d'Etudes des Drapeaux* (CEBED) (Belgian-European Flags Studies Centre) 1 April 1990.

Editor, since 1992, of the bulletin *Gaceta de Banderas* (Newsletter of Flags) edited in collaboration with the Spanish Vexillological Association. **Member** of nearly all the Vexillological Associations throughout the world (50).

Elected **President of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV)** on 14 August 1997 during the XVIIth International Congress of Vexillology in Cape Town (South Africa), re-elected in 1999 at Victoria (British Columbia), in 2001 at York (United Kingdom), in 2003 at Stockholm (Sweden), in 2005 at Buenos Aires (Argentina), in 2007 in Berlin (Germany), in 2009 in Yokohama (Japan), and in 2011 in Alexandria, Virginia (Washington, DC, USA).

Wrote the prefaces to the “**Album des Pavillons**” (naval and national flags of all Nations) edited by the French Navy Hydrographic Service, Brest (France), in January 2000 with amendments in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 (the only book of its kind published in the world) and to “**Nuestras banderas, vexilología argentina**” by Albert Rubén Perazzo, Buenos Aires, 2002.

Has written many books and articles on flags.