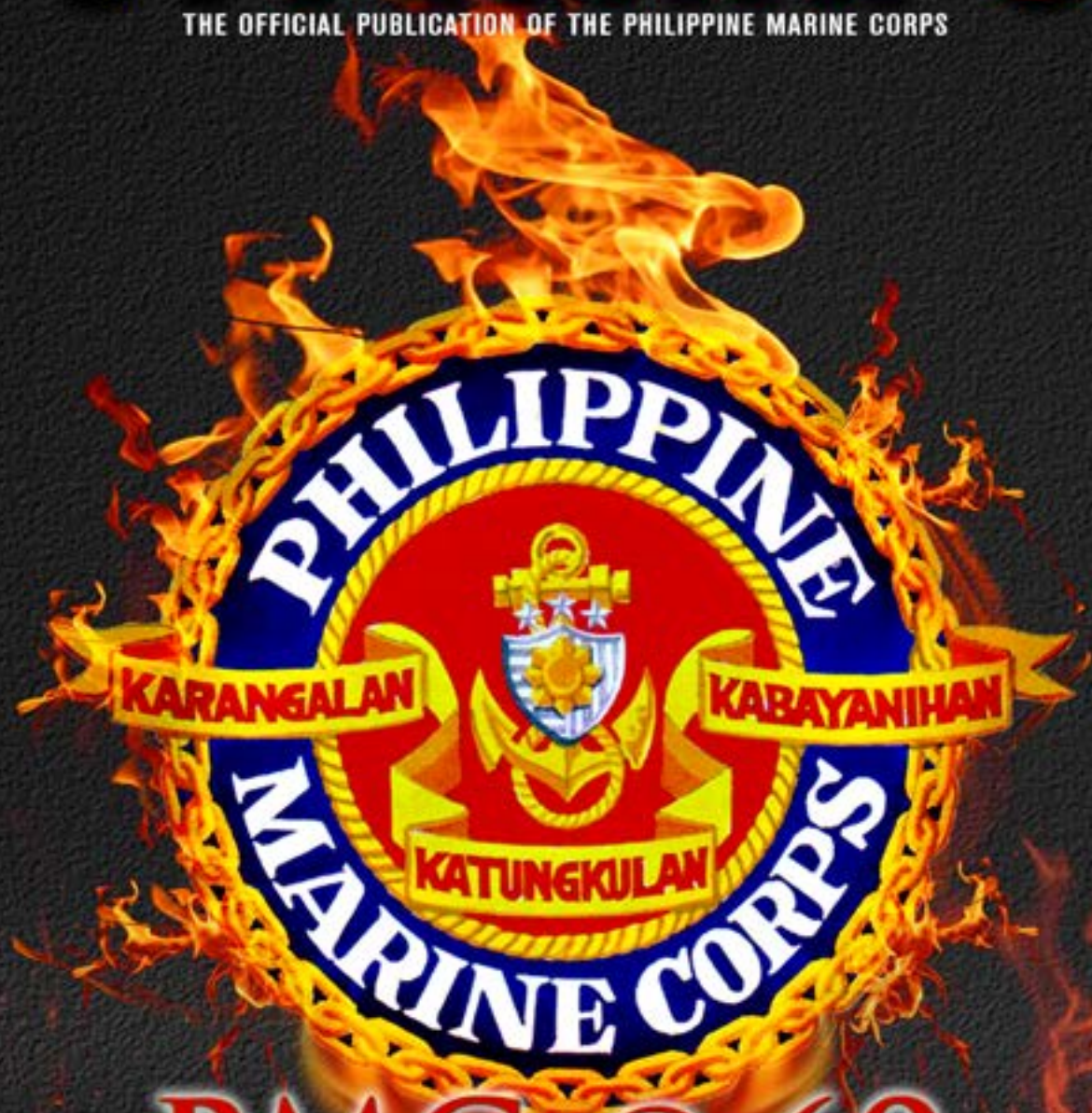


# CITEMAR 6

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS



**PMC @ 69**

**ON ITS**

**PRIME:**

**TOWARDS A HIGHLY CAPABLE  
NATIONAL MANEUVER**

**AMPHIBIOUS FORCE-IN-READINESS**





# CITEMAR 6

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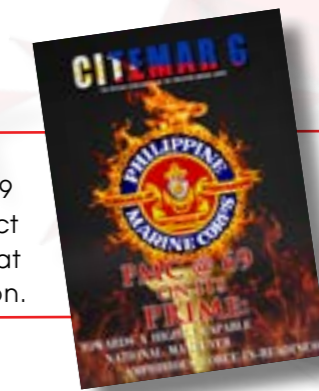
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## About the Cover

Honor. Duty. Valor. This is what drives every Filipino Marine. 69 years ago, the torch of the Philippine Marine Corps was ignited to protect the Filipino nation. Today, that flame shines in its brightest. The flame that engulfs every Filipino Marine, to protect and serve its people, lives on.



## Editor's Corner

The inception of the Philippine Marine Corps on 07 November 1950 was driven by one goal – the creation of an organization that will serve as the national maneuver amphibious force, ready to respond in any crisis, regardless of time and place. Driven by its ethos, "Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan", the discipline of the Corps was built on sweat, blood, and tears – a brotherhood bound by sacrifices and the passion to be in service to God and country.

The Corps is always ready to protect the archipelago through seaborne maneuvers, littoral operations, and special operations missions requiring surgical strikes with pinpoint accuracy. Aside from warfighting competency, the Corps is also in partnership with the government to promote and protect national and local law enforcement initiatives. During natural disasters and calamities, the Marines answer in a moment's notice. They are always ready to protect the land even at the cost of their own lives – a notable trademark of the Philippine Marine Corps' selfless service to the Filipino nation.

As we prepare to welcome another decade of unconditional service to the nation, this issue's theme: "PMC @ 69 on its Prime: Towards a Highly Capable National Maneuver Amphibious Force-in-Readiness" aims to highlight the rich history of the Philippine Marine Corps through stories and reports of heroism, sacrifice, and excellence in field of service. For 69 years, the Filipino nation is witness to the commitment and dedication of the Marines. From the rise of insurgents to civil unrest, the Philippine Marine Corps is always ready to come in and be identified as the nation's force of choice.

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Message from the  
**PRESIDENT**  
of the Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Marine Corps as it celebrates its 69<sup>th</sup> Marine Birthday.

For nearly seven decades, gallant men and women of the Marine Corps have shed blood, tears and sweat to ensure the safety, security and stability of our nation's maritime defense. I thus take this occasion to commend your spirited efforts to enhance the government's drive to secure our people against the modern threats that lurk in our internal and external waters.

I hope that this celebration continues to inspire our marines to remain steadfast in your duty to uphold our sovereignty and defend our national territory. As you commemorate the significant achievements and remarkable history of your beloved organization, may you remain even more dedicated to the longstanding values of honor, valor and duty that have guided you through the years.

Together, let us work hand in hand as we realize our mission to defend our nation and ensure the well-being of our citizenry.

I wish you a successful and meaningful event.



  
**RODRIGO R. DUTERTE**  
President of the Republic of the Philippines



Message from the  
**SECRETARY**  
of National Defense

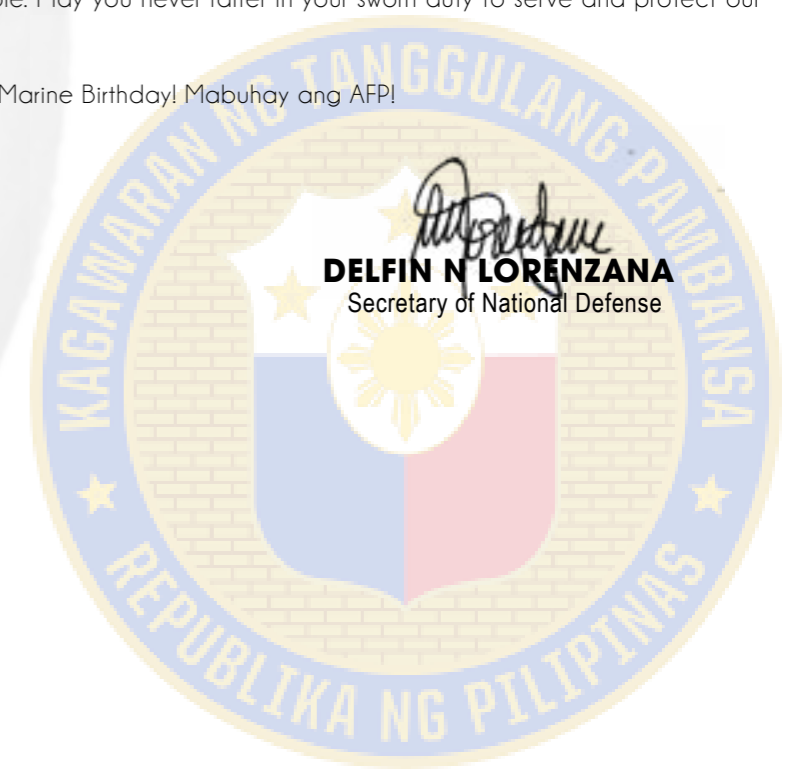
With great pride and appreciation, I convey my warmest greetings to the admirable men and women of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) as you celebrate your 69<sup>th</sup> Marine Birthday this November 2019!

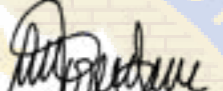
Being an integral part of the One Defense Team, our Marine Corps has relentlessly aimed for professionalism and excellence, providing indispensable support to the mission and mandate of the Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP). Even in the face of the harshest terrains and toughest adversities, our Marines are always ready to heed the call of duty.

With terrorists and lawless elements threatening the safety of our communities and endangering lives and properties, the courage of our men and women in uniform provides us the inspiration to become a modern and world-class defense organization. Indeed, this year's Marine Birthday theme, "PMC @ 69 on its Prime: Towards a Highly Capable Amphibious Force-in-Readiness", encapsulates both the commendable achievements of the Marine Corps since its inception and its purpose-driven future as an integral part of the AFP.

As we mark another year in your gallant history, I wholeheartedly thank the PMC on another year of committed service to the Filipino people. May you never falter in your sworn duty to serve and protect our nation.

Congratulations on your 69<sup>th</sup> Marine Birthday! Mabuhay ang AFP!



  
**DELFIN N. LORENZANA**  
Secretary of National Defense





Message from the  
**CHIEF OF STAFF**  
 Armed Forces of the Philippines



Message from the  
**FLAG OFFICER  
 IN COMMAND**  
 Philippine Navy



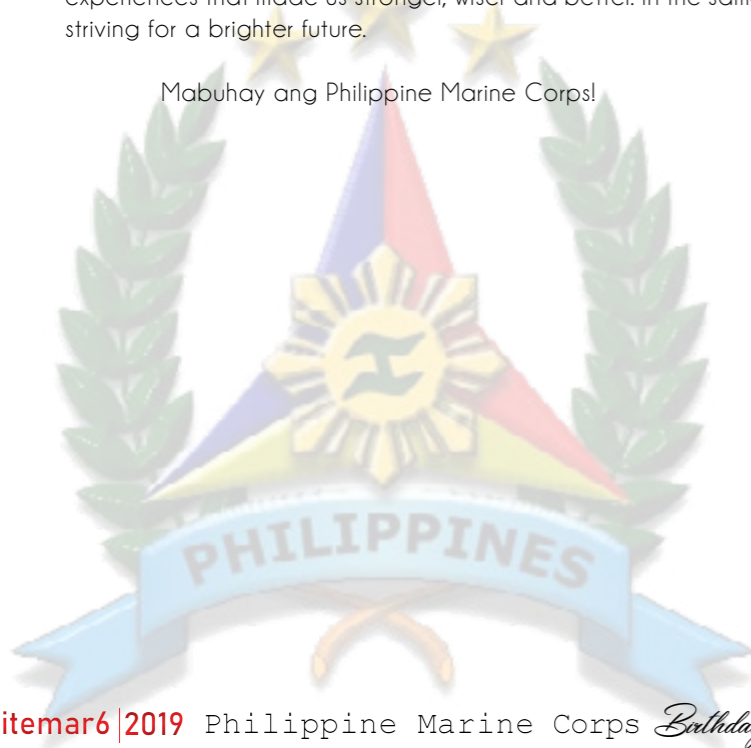
Together with the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I would like to express my warmest greetings and well wishes to the Philippine Marine Corps on the celebration of your 69<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

With brimming gallantry, pride and bravery – the Few, Proud, Marines have always been relentless and undaunted in pursuing peace and security in all sides of our country despite the challenges that you confront. Hailed as the ever-reliable combatants of the Philippine Navy for almost seven decades, the succesful deployments of the PMC have over the years cemented its strong reputation. The PMC has also produced a lineage of warriors on whom our fellow Filipinos have full confidence. Amidst the constantly evolving security environment of our archipelagic nation, the PMC has contributed to deliver and attain mission accomplishments. Serving at the frontlines, the warriors have brought significant feats particularly in the internal security operations and counter-terrorism efforts of the AFP. These are feasts that aim to not only preserve the peace experienced by the generation of today, but also to secure the future generations of Filipinos who deserve to live away from the clout of fear and terrorism.

Concerning the indispensable role of the Marines plays, your theme “PMC @ 69 on its Prime: Towards a Highly Capable Amphibious Force-in-Readiness”, firmly bespeaks of your commitment to continually remain above the challenges of securing and protecting our nation through prioritizing a credible defense stature that is holistically prepared.

In the celebration of the Philippine Marine Corps’ 69<sup>th</sup> birthday, may we recount all the lessons and experiences that made us stronger, wiser and better. In the same way, let these years further inspire us to keep striving for a brighter future.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Marine Corps!



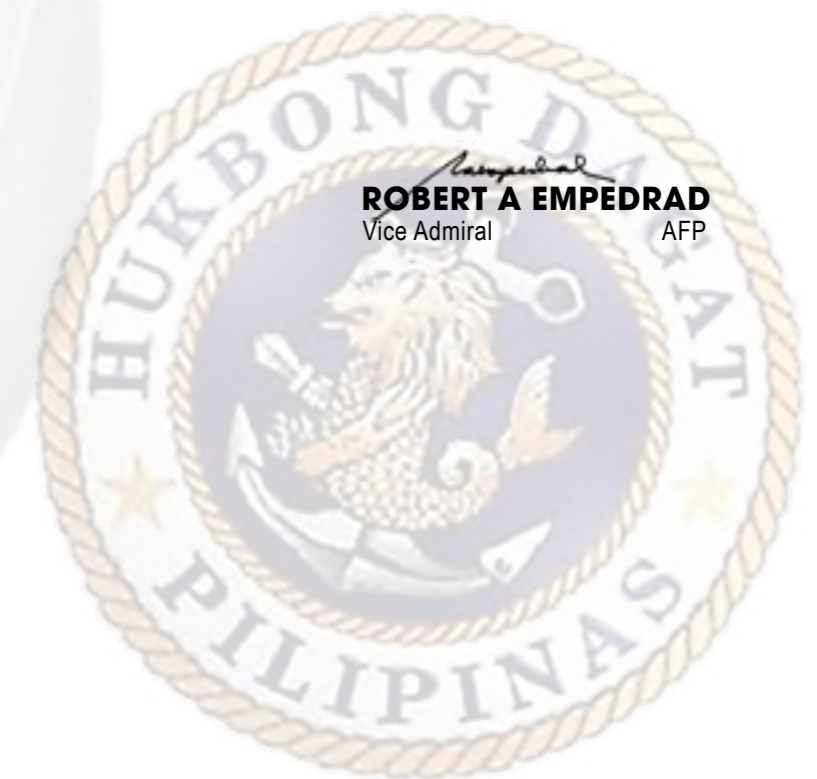
*Noel S. Clement*  
**NOEL S. CLEMENT**  
 General AFP

Sixty-nine years ago, our country witnessed the activation of the 1st Marine Battalion who courageously fought and won battles to secure the peace and freedom of the Filipino people. The same level of commitment and deep sense of patriotism have become the trademark of the Marine Corps as you continue to be the elite fighting force of our maritime nation.

As we turn another leaf in the colorful history of the Marine Corps, we look back not only to celebrate your triumphs and successful missions but also to give tribute to the selfless sacrifices that every Marine offers to our maritime nation. Indeed then and now, the heroism, commitment and dedication continue to characterize the Philippine Marine Corps as the best in the field and the country’s force of choice.

Thus, I convey the warmest greetings of the entire Philippine Navy to the Officers, Enlisted and Civilian Personnel of the Philippine Marine Corps as we share with you the joy of this special day. Congratulations for reaching 69 years of committed, selfless and dedicated service to God, our maritime nation and the Filipino people.

Happy 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Philippine Marine Corps! Mabuhay kayo!



*Robert A. Empedrad*  
**ROBERT A. EMPEDRAD**  
 Vice Admiral AFP





Message from the  
**COMMANDANT**  
Philippine Marine Corps



Message from the  
**PRESIDENT**  
Philippine Marine Corps Board of Advisers



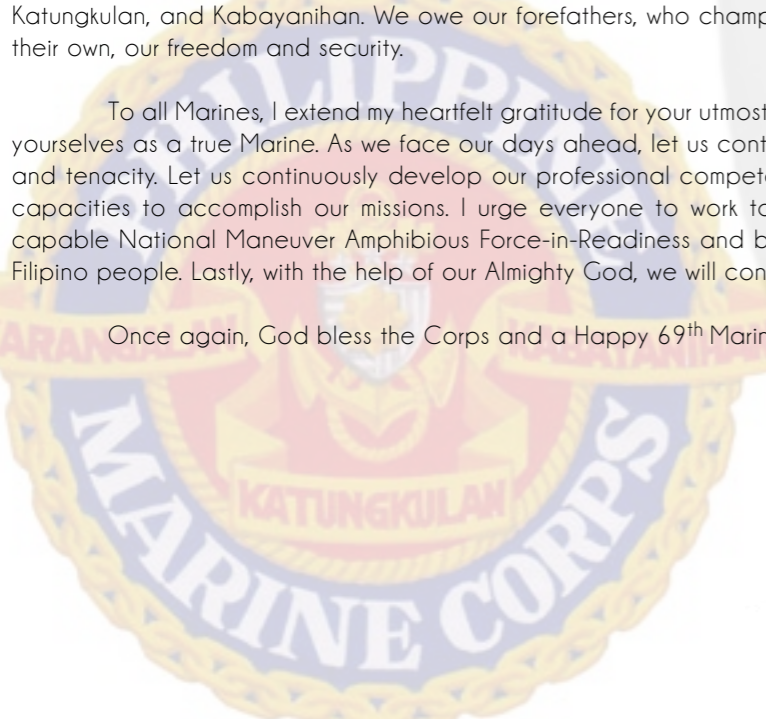
It is my honor to serve the Philippine Marine Corps as the 32<sup>nd</sup> Commandant and I am honored to see our Corps transformed from its humble beginning to become the cutting edge of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. As we celebrate our 69 years of divine existence, let us cherish the life that the Corps had for the past decades leading us to where we are right now. Today, the Corps is indeed at its prime. This occasion is a great opportunity for all of us to reminisce about the past and once again rediscover the foundations of being a Marine. Our identity as the National Maneuver Amphibious Force-in-Readiness further strengthens our grasp of who we are as Marines.

Over the years, we have proven our worth and leveled ourselves to the finest and elite military forces around the globe. We established our own narrative comprised of stories of excellence, discipline, and valor. We may have faced challenges and tests through times, but the Corps remains as one, a strong institution that continues to uphold its mandate in the service of the Filipino people. Thus, today's Philippine Marine Corps humbly reflects God given 69 years of our existence, summarizing the glorious history witnessed by thousands of valiant men who walked the lonely but noble journey of a Marine.

Since its inception in the 1950s, your Marines have leveraged the archipelagic nature of our country and capitalized in its character as the hard-hitting, highly mobile, seaborne striking force. The Corps accomplished difficult and dangerous missions exemplifying the Marine Corps Ethos of Karangalan, Katungkulan, and Kabayanihan. We owe our forefathers, who championed the interest of the Corps above their own, our freedom and security.

To all Marines, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your utmost passion and selfless service in carrying yourselves as a true Marine. As we face our days ahead, let us continue the legacy of the Corps with vigor and tenacity. Let us continuously develop our professional competencies, building our individual and unit capacities to accomplish our missions. I urge everyone to work together towards our vision as a highly capable National Maneuver Amphibious Force-in-Readiness and bring pride, aspiration and hope to our Filipino people. Lastly, with the help of our Almighty God, we will continue to win and succeed.

Once again, God bless the Corps and a Happy 69<sup>th</sup> Marine Birthday to us. Hurrah!!!



  
**NATHANIEL Y CASEM**  
Major General AFP

On the occasion of the 69<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps, we are happy to report that the Board of Advisers and the PMC have achieved three strategic objectives - Key Budgetary Unit status, the PMC Foundation, and the PMC history book. The site acquisition for the PMC Headquarters is also proceeding positively, with the PMC museum being part of the plan for the new location.

These accomplishments will benefit not only the Marines of today but the generations of Marines to follow. Ultimately, it will benefit the Filipino people.

On the occasion of the 69<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps, the BoA extends its best wishes to all Marines. We congratulate you on your achievements and renew our pledge of support.

Happy Birthday Marines!



  
**BENJAMIN I ESPIRITU**  
Brigadier General AFP(RES)(RET)






Message from the  
**COMMAND  
 SERGEANT MAJOR**  
 Philippine Marine Corps

As we pause to celebrate the birth of our Corps this year, we honor the legacy that was passed down to us and we recommit ourselves to carrying those traditions into the future. As we celebrate our 69<sup>th</sup> birthday, we must remember who we are, where we came from, and why we are here. We must remember the past, honor those who are no longer with us, focus on today's battles, and get ready for tomorrow. We can and will prevail as we always have, in any time and place. But we must prevail together, united by the unyielding spirit in each of us that makes our Corps unique -- that willingness to put our Corps and fellow Marines ahead of ourselves. Victory in battle comes through the integrated efforts of many -- teamwork.

We value the sacrifices and contributions of every Marine, as well as our family members whose without support would unable us to accomplish our mission. And we remain committed to being our Nation's Amphibious Force in Readiness that sets the standard for honor, discipline, and courage. I am proud of each and every one of you.

Happy Birthday Marines!



  
**Florencio B Manangan**  
 CMS PN(M)

# Four Strategic Objectives Achieved

BY: BGEN BENJAMIN I ESPIRITU, PHD, MNSA AFP (RES)

In the 2018 special edition of CITEMAR, the Philippine Marine Corps Board of Advisors (BoA) stated its then initiatives as giving advice and guidance on 1) the autonomy of the Philippine Marine Corps; 2) the establishment of the Philippine Marine Corps Foundation; 3) the chronicling of the history and the production of a book about the PMC; 4) securing a suitable location for the new headquarters of the PMC; 5) a permanent PMC museum and other strategic matters concerning the Corps. Today, a year later, the BoA is pleased to report on the results of its initiatives.

## The autonomy of the Philippine Marine Corps

Fiscal autonomy has long been a desire of the PMC. After several decades, this objective has finally been achieved. In his letter to Acting Department of Budget and Management Secretary Wendel Avisado dated 10 September 2019, Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea stated:

*With reference to the DBM letter dated 03 June 2019, regarding the request of the Secretary of National Defense to transform the Philippine Marine Corps into a Key Budgetary Unit (KBU) under the Philippine Navy, please be informed of the President's approval thereof. The DBM may proceed with the processing of the said request, in accordance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.*

## Establishment of the Philippine Marine Corps Foundation

Another long-standing desire of the PMC has been the setting up of a Foundation that could help strengthen the Corps as an institution and help the individual Marines whether they be active, reserve, or retired. On 23 August 2019, this objective was likewise achieved with the release by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Philippine Marine Corps Foundation Inc.

## The PMC Foundation has the following objectives:

1. To support the Philippine Marine Corps by disseminating knowledge of military art and science, and providing professional development opportunities to its members;
2. To foster, maintain, and promote the Marine traditions of excellence, heroism, loyalty and the highest standard of professionalism;
3. To recognize excellence and innovation, and inspire pride and camaraderie among the members of the Philippine Marine Corps;
4. To increase the efficiency and capabilities of the Philippine Marine Corps; and
5. To further and secure the interests of the Philippine Marine Corps as it seeks to advance its mandate by the government of the Philippines.

To achieve its objectives, the PMC Foundation will be accepting contributions, gifts, donations, grants, endowments and undertaking other similar activities that will be conducive to or expedient for its protection or benefit.

## History of, and Book about the Philippine Marine Corps

Accounts of the birth of the Philippine Marine Corps and several of its exploits can be found in various publications. However, they are fragmented and not up to date. There is no one single, holistic written account of the entire history of the Corps from its founding in 1950 to the present. It has long been a desire of the PMC to chronicle its history as a salute to all Marines and those who had championed their cause, and to make known to this and future generations of Filipinos what the Corps has done to ensure our nation's security. Thus, the PMC BoA, the PMC Foundation, and the PMC leadership undertook a history and book project that would chronicle the history of the Corps from its founding to the present.

Today, with the publication of the book "Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan, The History of the Philippine Marine Corps", this objective has been achieved.

## Securing a Suitable Location for the new PMC Headquarters

With the sale of the current location of the PMC Headquarters, the Corps has been forced to look for a site to transfer to. With the help of BoA Member Secretary Vince Dizon, Presidential Adviser on Flagship Projects and President of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, a suitable location in Morong, Bataan has been secured. An area for the Metro Manila headquarters has likewise been obtained.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) indicating the approval of the 100 hectares relocation site for the PMC has, as of this writing, been approved by the Flag Officer-In-Command and is now for the approval of the Department of National Defense. The amendment of Proclamation 984 is ongoing for the transfer of the said property from the Bases Conversion Development Authority to the Department of National Defense/Armed Forces of the Philippines/Philippine Navy and eventually to the PMC.

By the time this article is published, the award for the designs of the Marine facilities would have been awarded.

## PMC Museum

A site for the PMC Museum has already been identified in the new facility. 





# ADLUDUM VICIMUS



The Philippine Marine Corps, after garnering a total of 19 Gold medals out of 22 events was declared as the Overall Champion on the recently concluded closing ceremony for Admirals Cup 2019 last 01 August 2019 at Jurado Hall, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

## Philippine Marine Corps “Representatives of the Best in Soldierly”

The Commander-in-Chief, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte personally awards the Plaque of Merit and Streamer to the Philippine Marine Corps for having been adjudged as the Type Command of the Year 2019. The Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP receives the award during the 121st Philippine Navy Anniversary celebration at Commodore Rudiardo A Brown Breaching Area, Naval Base Heracleo Alano, Sangley Point, Cavite on 17 June 2019.

Selected Officers and Enlisted Personnel of the Corps also receive the Order of Lapu-Lapu Award. It is “awarded to officials and personnel of the government, as well as to private individuals, in recognition of their invaluable service in relation to a campaign or advocacy of the President.”

Said Officers and Enlisted Personnel fought and served during the Marawi Crisis. [PMA](#)

1st Marine Brigade was also adjudged as the Best Brigade for 2019. The award was personally received by BGEN EUGENIO V HERNANDEZ AFP.

The 19 events where the Marines made it to the top were;

- 6 x 100m Relay (Men)(Officer)
- 4 x 100m Relay (Women)(Officer)
- Classical Relay (EP)
- 10Km Run (Officer)
- 5Km Run (Men)(Officer)
- 5Km Run (Women) (Open)
- Triathlon
- Platoon Run
- Shooting Pistol
- Shooting Rifle
- Cycling Off Road
- Dragon Boat
- Swimming
- Basketball (EP)
- Football
- Lawn Tennis
- Table Tennis
- Volleyball (Women)
- Badminton

Meanwhile two (2) 1st Runner-Up trophies were gathered from Tug of War and Basketball (Officers) and one (1) 2nd Runner-up trophy was received from the Volleyball (Men).

The Flag Officer in Command, VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT A EMPERAD AFP commended the former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP in his speech delivered by RADM LOUMER P BERNABE AFP applauding him for leading the teams to the top. [PMA](#)







**MAJOR**  
**ROMULO G. DIMAYUGA II PN (M)**

**Former Operations and Training Officer**  
**Force Reconnaissance Group**  
 Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps, Fort Bonifacio  
 Taguig City  
 Field of specialization: Special Operations / Marine Amphibious Warfare (Infantry) /  
 Intelligence / Education and Training  
 Years in service: 19

**PHILIPPINE NAVY'S SPECIAL  
 OPERATIONS WARFIGHTER**

*"My early years as a Force Recon Marine were marked with literal blood, sweat and tears. I have experienced being wounded, being outnumbered in a firefight, losing comrades, being away from my loved ones, among others. These seem to be enough reasons for a sane man to quit this perilous job and find a safer one, but not for me. I've always known that the moment I signed up for the Philippine Marine Corps, all those came inside my canteen cup for free and with unlimited refill."*



The life of a soldier is marked by the constant shadow of danger, and fuelled by the rallying cry of putting others' welfare before one's own—all in service of the people and the country. That in itself is a daunting prospect. This, however, did not deter Maj. Romulo G. Dimayuga II, who grew up harboring the dream of following in his father's footsteps. He knew the risks of being on the frontlines yet he kept being driven onward.

Nineteen (19) years into the military service, Maj. Dimayuga has held a number of key positions as a Marine officer and has rendered game-changing contributions to the military.

In 2006, his leadership as a platoon commander of a Force Recon Platoon was key to crippling the forces of the most notorious terrorist group in the country by infiltrating their stronghold in Sulu. This led to the neutralization of its top leader who was tagged as one of the most wanted men in Southeast Asia and was listed as one of FBI's most wanted terrorists. This news made headlines. Dimayuga and his platoon suffered losses and incurred injuries during this campaign, but they continue to remember this as a victory for the country against terrorism.

Further, Maj. Dimayuga's stints as Intelligence Officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team-4 and Operations Officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 from 2013 to 2014 and 2017 to 2018, respectively, marked his crucial role in the successful countercommunist insurgency operations against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) in Northern Palawan.

The province has had a long history of being plagued by communist insurgency activities. This was the situation Maj. Dimayuga and his troops aimed to transform. For them, restoring peace not only meant defeating the enemies, but, primarily, creating an environment where communities can thrive.

To achieve this, Maj. Dimayuga's unit used an innovative yet pragmatic approach rooted in promoting a productive and lasting relationship with the locals. They knocked on every resident's door to learn about their needs and at the same time to send the message across that they can be their allies. These efforts have contributed to the declaration of Palawan province as a "Zone of Sustained Peace, Development, and Prosperity" in 2014.

Moreover, Maj. Dimayuga channelled his efforts into forging a partnership between his units and the locals of northern Palawan and Puerto Princesa City by underscoring their mutual aspiration: weakening the communist insurgents' ranks and curbing the threat among Palaweños.

Maj. Dimayuga spearheaded this initiative by employing a different tactic. He knew that urging the insurgents to walk away from the armed struggle cannot be achieved solely by force and combat operations, but by offering them another chance to re-integrate to mainstream society and bring back normalcy in their lives. Further, his unit ensured that the residents, especially the youth, are properly informed so they will not be influenced.

Inside his institution, Maj. Dimayuga led the standardization of training programs that aims to improve the combat effectiveness of the Force Reconnaissance Group, Philippine Marine Corps' elite unit, and the Marine Battalion Landing Team-12's Scout Sniper Squad. As a veteran of combat, he identified the gaps and incorporated his own experiences in crafting training programs attuned to real-life situations.

Defending the country's sovereignty is also a part of his duty. From 2017 to 2018, he was the Operations Officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 in charge of conducting territorial defense in the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), West Philippine Sea. His battalion provided round-the-clock security of seven out of nine islands— Lawak, Patag, Likas, Pag-asa, Panata, Parola, and Patag—of KIG and the whole northern Palawan.

Over the course of his storied career, Maj. Dimayuga's inspiration is to make a difference wherever his mission takes him. His assignments might have entailed blood, sweat, and tears but Maj. Dimayuga pledges to always live by the Marine's code of honor, duty, and valor to defend his country. Maj. Dimayuga, 37, is a graduate of Philippine Military Class of 2005 and is married. He has been part of the country's forces for 19 years now.

At present, he is taking up Master of Science in Defense Analysis Major in Irregular Warfare at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, USA. [PMF](#)

*Courtesy of Metrobank Foundation*



# Marines Bags Top Spot in Naval Command and Staff Course Class 86

The Naval Command and Staff Course (NCSC) is a six-month-long career course taken by all Philippine Navy officers with the rank of Lieutenant/Captain (O3). This course is designed to prepare and equip them to assume higher command responsibilities and to hold staff positions in the Philippine Navy and Marine units. As a requirement to be considered for promotion to the next higher rank, this course is a highly coveted opportunity for higher learning and career progression.

With the recently concluded NCSC class, a Marine Officer was once again declared as the top of her class. CPT CHERRYL P TINDOG PN(M) ranked number one among the 48 students who took the NCSC Class 86 held at Naval Education, Training and Doctrines Command (NETC) in San Antonio, Zambales from March 28 to September 25, 2019.

CPT TINDOG was awarded the Flag Officer In Command Philippine Navy Plaque of Distinction for graduating as number one in her class. She also received four certificates of merit for the following – Best in Communications Module, Best in Academics Module, Best in Staff Study, and Certificate of Merit for garnering



a perfect score in the 11 Working Papers submitted. Another one from the Marine Corps, CPT JAY B JUBILAN PN(M) graduated number four from the same class.

CPT TINDOG was the former Chief of the Public Affairs Office (PAO) and Deputy Chief of Unified Command Staff for Plans, U5. She was instrumental in various information and communication activities of AFP Western Command (WESCOM) that continue to support peace, security, and development initiatives in the province of Palawan and the West Philippine Sea. With her sterling performance and service, she was awarded as the two-time Officer of the Year of WESCOM for CY 2015 and 2018.

CPT TINDOG was also the former Director of the Marine Corps Public Affairs Office and the Marine History Office at the Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps from 2010-2013. She received an outstanding achievement medal for her dedication and exemplary performance during her tour of duty. [PMC](#)



## PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS Received Firearms from ARMSCOR

The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) gratefully received units of pistol and shotgun from ARMSCOR Global Defense, Incorporated on 05 August 2019 at Headquarters Philippine Marines Corps.

make things happen. I further encourage you to run the race with us for a better Corps and better nation" he added. [PMC](#)

Five (5) units of Caliber 9mm, five (5) units Cal.40mm and Three (3) units of shotgun were donated by the ARMSCOR represented by President and CEO of ARMSCOR, Mr Martin Tuazon and the Senior Executive President and Deputy CEO of ARMSCOR, Ms Gina Marie Anganco.

MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, former Commandant Philippine Marine Corps in his speech, sincerely thanks the donor for the kind donations that they gave for the PMC shooting team. "Surely, this will improve our shooting team who represents the Corps in the different shooting competitions. Even though these firearms are for the use of our shooting team, the whole Marine Corps will definitely benefit from the Marksmanship skills that these men and women developed and could spread throughout the Corps. These could bring glory and prestige to our beloved Corps as they start collecting awards and celebrating victories", he said.

"Your Marines will continue to uphold its mandate and will continue to fight for its existence because of you. Its supporters, partners, stakeholders and the Filipino people always believing and trusting that your Marines can do it and





# Distinguished Lieutenants Volunteer for Marine Corps



Distinguished lieutenants join the ranks of the Philippine Marine Corps as the Opening Ceremony of Marine Officer Basic Course (MOBC) Class 42 was held at Marine Corps Force Development Center (MCFDC) Audio Visual Room yesterday, 14 August 2019.

Second Lieutenant Argel Louis G Delos Reyes, a native of Tacloban City, is the third Filipino graduate from the Republic of Korea Naval Academy and will be the first graduate from ROKNA to join the Philippine Marine Corps.

Delos Reyes spent a year in the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) as a cadet before being selected to study in Korea in 2014 as a full scholar in ROKNA. He spent five years of training as a midshipman cadet. The Republic of Korea Naval Academy is a four-year co-educational service academy and is the primary source of officers for the Republic of Korea Navy and Republic of Korea Marine Corps. The Naval Academy grants a baccalaureate degree and a broad military program specified to the needs of the Navy & Marine Corps.

During his schooling, he received the Superintendent's award, Commandant of Cadets award, and Physical Fitness Award. The President of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency Moon Jae In and other foreign dignitaries graced the commencement exercises last March 6, 2019, at the Republic of Korea Naval Academy Parade Grounds in Jinhae, Gyeongsangnam do province, Korea.

Every year since 2013, the Korean Government invites selected PMA cadets to study at the Military, Naval, and Air Force Academy. The training and exchange of officers and enlisted personnel is a vital diplomatic strategy between the Philippines and the Korean Armed Forces.

While Second Lieutenant Glyn Elinor B Marapao, a native of Benguet, ranks 8th out of 261 members of PMA MABALASIK Class of 2019. A recipient of the Navy

Professional Plaque Award, she also volunteered to join the ranks of the Marine Corps.

These new officers, along with other 19 new lieutenants will undergo the six-month duration training to become full-blooded Marines. Subjecting them under rigorous mental and physical training, graduates will be armed with the knowledge and skill necessary in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as Marine Officers.

The Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP expressed his appreciation to the new volunteers. "The Philippine Marine Corps, from its inception in the early '50s is comprised of only the best, Marines who are more than willing to sacrifice for the service of our maritime nation. It is good to note that the finest officers join our ranks, for it is a testament that we are the best, continuing our legacy of being the representatives of the best in soldiery".



## Memorandum of Agreement Signing with



In support of the annual commemoration of the Annual Disability Week, the Philippine Marine Corps entered into a Memorandum Of Agreement with GMA Kapuso Foundation Inc. and LN-4 Foundation Philippines last 25 July 2019 at Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The partnership was signed by MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, former Commandant Philippine Marine Corps, Ms. Luz Annalee O Escudero-Catibog Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of GMA Kapuso Foundation Inc. and Mrs. Grace B Cabato, Philippine Ambassador of LN4 Foundation represented by Mr. Anthony Untalan, LN-4 and National Vice President of Naked Wolves Philippines.

The MOA will benefit the injured members of the PMC with below the elbow amputations, family members of Enlisted Personnel in the active service to include those honorably discharged, civilian personnel of the PMC and their families, giving them free prostheses.

LN4 Foundation provides mechanical hands free of charge. Together with Naked Wolves Philippines, they assess possible patients or recipient all over the country. GMA Kapuso Foundation through the "Kapusong Totoo" segment also searches for possible recipients as the partnerships' official media partner. The PMC meanwhile, as the country's bastion deployed in the far-flung areas of the archipelago not only receives donations but also searches for possible civilian beneficiaries.





# MARINE CANNONEERS TOP ARMY SCHOOL

By: MAJ HASIM A SALIH JR PN(M)



*Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the thing we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off.*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), as an amphibious fighting force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under the Philippine Navy, has three sub-warfare Field of Specialization (FOS) under the Amphibious Warfare. One of these is the Field Artillery (FA). The Field Artillery Battalion (FABn) caters to the said FOS peculiar to the PMC and only a handful of officers aspire to join in the said FOS, few of which will be selected and only a number will be qualified. To be fully included in the FA FOS, a Marine Officer must signify for FA as his/her sub-warfare FOS and must also be assigned with FABn. The said Officer will undergo the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course (FAOBC) or Basic Officer Leadership Course – Field Artillery (BOLC-FA) at the Field Artillery School, Fires Center/Combined Arms Center, Training and Doctrines Command, Philippine Army (TRADOC, PA), an established training institution that advances on the concepts of Combined Arms Operation. A Marine Artillery Officer may also take the Field Artillery Officer Advance Course (FAOAC), a course to further nurture the previously learned tactical and technical skills in FA operations, tactics and strategies prior to taking the helm of an FA Battery.

At the FA School, TRADOC, PA, the Marine Officers will be introduced to new and broader perspectives which include the Common Module Phase (CMP) merged with the AFP Occupational Specialty (AFPOS) into one class. This enables Marine Officers to engage with Army Officers of different AFPOS. After a month-long academics in the first phase of the course, the Marine Officers will undergo the Specialization Phase module which includes the Tactical, Technical and Field Training Exercise (FTX) in the context of FA. These classroom instructions and practical exercises will mold Marine Officers to be certified and credible Field Artillery Officers in a span of three (3) months.

Marine Officers, in the pursuit of excellence, strives hard in their academic endeavors. This is a testament to the Corps' competency and professionalism. A clear manifestation is the Marine Officers who were top notchers of their respective class in the FA courses:

Name	Class Standing	Course	Nr. of Students
CPT RONALD RYAN B NERI O-144389 PN(M)	1	FAOBC CL 44-2016	16
CPT JADE M BARBUDO O-144832 PN(M)	2	FAOBC CL 44-2016	16
2LT NONITO S BANGIBANG JR O-149772 PN(M)	1	BOLC 03-2017	11
1LT DENNIS I BAUTISTA O-145481 PN(M)	1	BOLC CL 03-2019	20
1LT NEL C TAPEL O-147077 PN(M)	2	BOLC CL 03-2019	20
2LT MARY GRACE J CARULUAN O-18402 PN(M)	4	BOLC CL 03-2019	20

The ability and the performance of these officers can be credited to the inspiration by the achievement made by COL DANILO F LUNA O-126069 PN(M) GSC (Ret), the former Commanding Officer of FABn from 15 October 2005 to 02 January 2008, who graduated as the top of his FAOBC class. This is a clear manifestation that our Marine Officers' sufficient preparation, unequivocal perseverance and high standard of professionalism attested to the Marine oath, which states "To improve myself physically, mentally, morally and professionally".

The outstanding results garnered by our Artillery Officers as previously mentioned can also be attributed to the battalion level practice and procedure applied to the newly reported officers. These officers are directed to immediately join FA related courses/training programmed like the Field Artillery Basic Course (FABC) usually offered to Enlisted Personnel of the Marine Corps which is the basic training foundation of FABn NCOs.

During the conduct of the course, the newly assigned officers of FABn are joined with the regular students of FABC to capacitate them with the basic, technical, and tactical fundamentals of FA operations. After the FABC, these officers are then taught by the battalion staff officers, who have competently completed their Battery Commander billet and had also taken their FA Advance course to cover the modules of Fire Support Planning/Fires Planning. This is in preparation for their anticipated admission as students of FAOBC/BOLC-FA in TRADOC, PA. If there are times that the FAOBC/BOLC-FA is not yet to convene, these officers are assigned to FABn Firing Batteries to further enhance and put to practice their acquired skills during FABC and other FA related in-house training. With this kind of training procedure and application of the best practices in the FA, the Marines are well determined and are more confident in achieving the highest merits in their training resulting in Marine Cannoneers on the top of their classes.

With these laudable achievements in the field of academics and training, our Marine FA Officers give pride and honor not only to themselves but also to the Corps. Clearly, they are the representatives of the best in soldiery. Having this in our minds, Marine Rifle units can depend and be confident that the officers manning the artillery behind them are competent and proficient in their field.

This practice will be a tradition that shall be carried out in the coming generations of future Marine FA Officers who will man the upcoming Shore Based Missile Systems (anti-ship and air-defense) of the Marine Corps.



# First Female Marine AW109E Helicopter Pilot



Last 02 October 2019, CPT TARRAH JANE "AQUILA" F CARANDANG PN(M) completed her AW109E Helicopter Pilot Qualification Course (PQC) becoming the first female Marine pilot to earn the First Pilot Rating (Gold Wings) for the PN AW109E Helicopters.

flying the AW109E Helicopter and will undergo another evaluation in order to assess her readiness to assume duties and responsibilities as PIC of the said aircraft.

Continuing the legacy of the few and the proud, she is the third female in the whole Philippine Navy and the first in the Marines to become a Helicopter Pilot. She gained her co-pilot rating to fly the AW109E on 16 April 2016 and was deployed in various deployment areas supporting fleet-marine operations.

The rigorous flight training took 18 hours and was facilitated by AW109E Helicopter instructor pilots LT MARAYAG PN and LCDR MIRANDA PN. The said training is one of the most challenging phases being undergone by a naval aviator until he/she emerges as a Pilot-In-Command (PIC) of a PN Major Aircraft. Having surpassed the PQC, she will be again deployed to various naval operational areas

As a marine aviator, she hopes that her contributions and dedication to the service will also inspire and empower other fellow marines especially her female counterparts to excel in their respective duties and fields of specialization.





“ Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.

Photos by: ROKMC

# THE WAR MEMORIAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA

by: Ms. Maria Carla C Mendoza CE

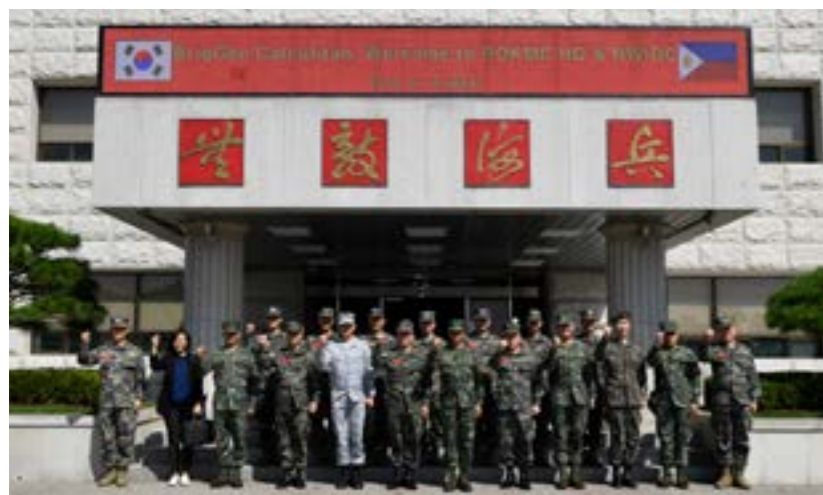
The first Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) - Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC) Marine to Marine Staff Talks was held at the Headquarters ROKMC last 17 to 20 September 2019. This coincides with the 70th year of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and South Korea, which traces its roots from the assistance of the Philippines given during the Korean War by sending troops who gallantly fought for the Republic of South Korea and being the first ASEAN country to establish diplomatic ties with South Korea.

Affairs Branch, MC5.

As a brief background, the Terms of Reference (TOR) between the PMC and ROKMC Marine to Marine Staff Talks was signed last 07 February 2019 with the objective to promote, strengthen and further develop friendly military cooperation and provide a forum for discussion of issues of common interest and to facilitate cooperative activities of mutual benefit to both parties.

BGEN ARIEL R CACULITAN AFP, Deputy Commandant, PMC was the Head of Delegation and Co-Chair for the said staff talks accompanied by LTCOL ROWAN L RIMAS PN(M)(GSC), Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff (AC of S) for Plans and Programs, MC5, MAJ MARVIN T SALVAN PN(M), Deputy AC of S for Education and Training, MC8, MAJ DONALD J JAGUNAP PN(M), Deputy AC of S for Logistics, MC4, and Ms. Maria Carla C Mendoza CE, Administrative Officer II, International Military

Both PMC and ROKMC established strong ties that advocate Amphibious Operations and both of the Corps refined their commitment through enhancing bilateral relations and training cooperation which contributes to capability development and promotion of peace within the region. The PMC and ROKMC are in the front lines ready to defend the nation against the enemy and share common values such as serving the people and love of country. Moving forward, the PMC will be hosting the Staff Talks for the year 2020. [PH](#)



# Marine Battalion to Combat Terrorism in Sulu



After completing the Battalion Retraining and Refurbishing Program which lasted nine months and having been declared as an operational unit, the Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 of the Philippine Marines Corps sails towards the island of Sulu after the Send-Off Ceremony accorded to them by the Flag Officer in Command, PN, VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP together with the Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP at Pier 13, South Harbor, Manila this morning, June 28, 2019.

In his speech, VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP underlined that the Marines should "...remember that the faith of the Filipino people lies on your unprecedented skills as this country's protectors. With your spotless records of previous successful missions, we are likewise assured of your triumph in this new charge and that when the time comes for your return; we will again tell stories of success and the victory in the name of our Philippine Marine Corps, for our Navy, our Armed Forces and our maritime nation."

The 8th Marine Battalion arrived in Manila last 13 September 2018 coming from its deployment in the province of Cagayan and Batanes. The PMC Rifle Battalion Training System was conceptualized to provide a comprehensive approach for training based on the long established PMC training concept. It is designed to sustain the combat preparedness of marine operating forces in the face of their relatively prolonged deployments and high operational tempo in the area. It includes proven best war fighting practices of transforming the rifle battalion to a battalion landing team focusing on critical combat and non-combat tasks.

The former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP lauded the Marines pointing that "with these innovations and capability development programs, they (8th Marine Battalion) have once again shown that the Marines are the adaptable force needed by our archipelagic nation that is ready to respond to crisis and emergency in the country." He also encouraged his Marines to "continue to serve our God, our country and the Filipino people."

The PMC deployed the 8th Marine Battalion to the province of Sulu replacing MBLT 3 who will then replace MBLT 12 in Palawan. MBLT 12 is scheduled to take the said retraining and refurbishing once it arrives in Manila. [PH](#)



# WARDEN OF THE NORTH: MARINE RETIRES FROM SERVICE



The Philippine Navy honors LTGEN EMMANUEL B SALAMAT AFP, former Commander, Northern Luzon Command, during the Testimonial Parade with Retreat and Retirement Ceremony accorded to him on 12 July 2019.

held various positions in the Corps such as the Commander of Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 who won the PMC Best Battalion "Kahusayan" Award in 2005, Brigade Commander of the 1st Marine Brigade adjudged as the Brigade of the Year 2014, 2015, and 2016, and the Western Mindanao Command's Best Combat Brigade for the year 2015. [PMA](#)

LTGEN SALAMAT AFP assumed the position as Commander, Northern Luzon Command last 04 September 2017. He was the 30th Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps before assuming the said office. A member of Philippine Military Academy "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, he

## Philippine Marine Corps Honors Japan Attaché

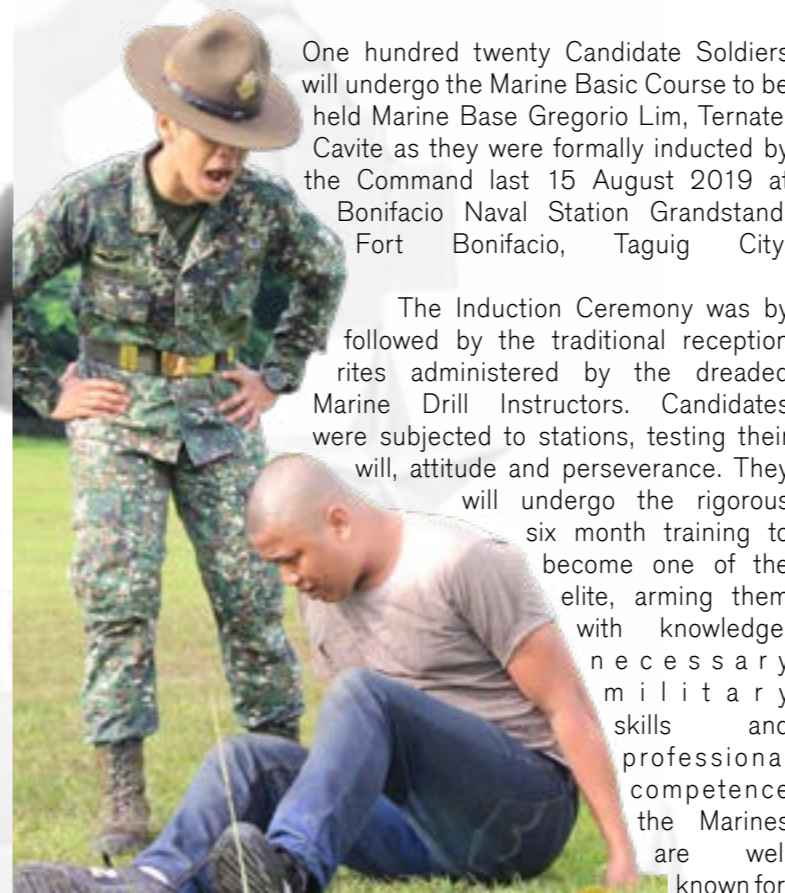


The Philippine Marine Corps rendered an Arrival Honor to the Defense Attaché, Embassy of Japan, COL KAZUNOBU AKUTSU at HPMC, Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, with the former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP as the Presiding Officer last 05 July 2019.

Corps and Japan Ground Self Defense Force Working Group Meetings (2017 and 2019); facilitated the crafting of the PMC and Amphibious Rapid Deployable Brigade of the JGSDF Terms Of Reference for Staff to Staff Talk; facilitated the successful visit of GEN KOJI YAMAZAKI, the Chief of Staff of the Japan Ground Self Defence Force last March 2019 and facilitated the Terms Of Reference of PMC and JGSDF Participation during KAMANDAG Exercise. [PMA](#)

The Philippine Marine Corps recognizes COL AKUTSU for his accomplishments and for his invaluable support to the PMC during his period as the defense attaché. COL AKUTSU facilitated the 3rd and 4th Philippine Marine

## Candidate Soldiers Volunteer for Marine Corps



One hundred twenty Candidate Soldiers will undergo the Marine Basic Course to be held Marine Base Gregorio Lim, Ternate, Cavite as they were formally inducted by the Command last 15 August 2019 at Bonifacio Naval Station Grandstand, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The Induction Ceremony was by followed by the traditional reception rites administered by the dreaded Marine Drill Instructors. Candidates were subjected to stations, testing their will, attitude and perseverance. They will undergo the rigorous six month training to become one of the elite, arming them with knowledge, necessary military skills and professional competence the Marines are well known for.

MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps graced the said event. "I am sure that your family and relatives are proud of you for what you have been through and for what you opt to do as volunteers. So, never fail them and never return home without earning the title "Marines", he said as he encouraged the volunteers.

"Your Marine Basic Course is designed to develop your skills and abilities physically, mentally, morally and professionally. Expect that it will be hard and it will test your character and attitude in order for you to not just earn the title of being a Marine but also make the "Marines" as your way of life", he added.

Graduates from this tough and rigorous training will then be assigned to the different Marine deployments all over the archipelago, conducting dangerous missions in safeguarding the peace and security of the nation. From combating insurgents to supporting law enforcement and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations, these Marines will be the best, as they are the representatives of the best in soldiery. [PMA](#)

## Japanese General Visits Philippine Marine Corps Commandant



Major General Yasunori Morishita, Director General, Policy and Programs Department, Ground Staff Office (GSO), Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) and his party met the former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP to further discuss the bilateral activities to enhance the capabilities of both sides, sustain bilateral relations and to open an opportunity for the PMC to engage the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) under the Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) yesterday, July 3, 2019. [PMA](#)





# Philippine Marine Corps Welcomes Defenders of the West



For almost a decade of being deployed in the province of Palawan, the 12th Marine (Tagapagtanggol) Battalion of the Philippine Marine Corps sets foot at Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City yesterday, 15 July 2019 to undergo the Battalion Retraining and Refurbishing Program of the Corps. The battalion was welcomed by no less than the Flag Officer in Command, PN, VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP together with the former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP.

The 12th Marine Battalion was formally activated on 14 April 2010. Said unit was deployed on the island of Palawan to secure the peace and order of the province. These Marines were also deployed in the Spratly Islands and BRP Sierra Madre which ran aground in 1999 on Ayungin Shoal. Conducting different kinds of military, internal security, law enforcement and civil-military operations in Palawan, the Marines gained appreciation from the locals of the said province. The unit replaced the newly retrained and refurbished MBLT 8 which was sent to Sulu to combat terrorist last June 28. [PMA](#)



## MARINE COMPANY ACTIVATED

The Philippine Marine Corps has proven over the years of its worthiness to be called the "Armed Forces of the Philippines' Premier Force of Choice". To embody the ideals and the desire for continuous progression, the Corps activated various units and offices as a part of the changes in its force structure. This will address the various needs of the organization with the aim to achieve its overall mission which is to provide combined arms units for the conduct of amphibious operations and other operations in support of the Philippine Navy mission.

Last 23 August 2019, the Corps formally activated the 461st Marine Company of Motor Transport and Maintenance Battalion with the Deputy Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, BGEN ARIEL R CACULITAN AFP, as Presiding Officer.

The said unit was activated to address the transportation requirements of the newly activated 4th Marine Brigade stationed at Brgy. Tanduh Bato, Luuk, Sulu and three other rifle battalions under its command. The 461st Marine Company is composed of two female officers and around 30 enlisted personnel. The company also has its first female Commanding Officer - 1LT LLEWELLYNNE GRACE G GALLERO PN(M).

The unit is equipped with KM450s, KM250s, and M35 trucks to support the new brigade together with the three rifle battalions under its command. [PMA](#)



## Joint Maritime Law Enforcement Operation SEIZES ILLEGAL FISHING BOATS

Joint elements of Philippine Coast Guard, Bantay Dagat of Roxas, Palawan and Marine Battalion Landing -3 (MBLT-3) in the conduct of Maritime Law Enforcement Operation apprehended two fishing boats conducting illegal fishing activities last July 26, 2019, in the waters of Roxas, Palawan.

While underway in the vicinity of Nicanor Zabala Reef, the operating elements sighted the said fishing boats and immediately conducted boarding inspection upon issuance of Certificate of Orderly Inspection. This led to the discovery of compressors and other paraphernalia used in illegal fishing.

The operators of the said boats violated the Municipal Ordinance Nr. 21 series of 2001 which prohibits the use and installation of compressors in any fishing vessel operating within the municipal waters of Roxas, Palawan

and Republic Act 10654 otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

The team escorted the apprehended fishing boats to Roxas Feeder Fort and arrived on 27 July 2019. The said boats are currently under the custody of the Philippine Coast Guard.

The Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, lauded the members of the team for their significant accomplishment.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines through the Philippine Marine Corps in partnership with other law enforcement agencies continues to perform maritime law enforcement operations against illegal fishing activities with the objective of protecting our natural resources. [PMA](#)

## FIREARMS, MARIJUANA SEIZED

The conduct of joint Law Enforcement Operation by PDEA, PNP, and AFP resulted to the recovery of two M16 rifles and discovery of a marijuana plantation with an estimated value of 2.4 M pesos at Sitio Kasigputan, Brgy Pang, Kalingalan Caluang, Sulu yesterday, 08 September 2019.

Operating elements of MBLT-7, PDEA BARM, Kalingalang Caluang MPS, and intelligence units apprehended Mr. Atiulla Main seizing two M16A1 rifles, magazines with live ammunition and more or less 1, 200 pieces of fully grown marijuana.

Suspect Atiulla Main including the recovered firearms was received by Chief of Police Kalingalan Caluang MPS for custody prior filling of appropriate charges. Collected samples of marijuana were also turned over to the PDEA personnel to be subjected to laboratory testing and further validation.



Operating elements destroyed/burned the said marijuana plants at the plantation site on said barangay. [PMA](#)



## GRENADE THROWING INCIDENT AT BROOKES POINT, PALAWAN



At around 8:30 in the evening 23 July 2019 the unidentified individuals using motorcycle thrown a M2 Grenade towards the post of Marine detachment at Brgy Aribungos, Brookes Point, Palawan. The primer exploded; fortunately, the grenade itself remains intact. No personnel incurred injury on the said explosion.

As part of precautionary measures, said unit informed and coordinated with Brookes Point MPS of the incident and requested EOD personnel for the proper disposition of the UXO. The Marine Battalion Landing Team 4 in collaboration with other units continue intensifying intelligence monitoring to determine the identities of the perpetrators. Rest assured that your marines will always vigilance for the safety of the Palaweños. [PMG](#)

## SHABU, PUMPBOATS SEIZED

Five suspects and twenty-eight plastic sachets believed to contain shabu amounting to more or less twenty-seven thousand pesos were apprehended by Joint Law Enforcement Operations conducted by Marines from Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 and police from Banguingui Municipal Police Station at Brgy Tainga, Bakkaw, Sulu last 04 August 2019.

The Joint Law Enforcement Operations was in response to the information provided of the alleged presence of drugs dealers and Abu Sayyaf members in the waters of the said barangay. Operatives quickly responded and apprehended the suspects together with two pump boats, drug paraphernalia and one magazine assembly of caliber 45 loaded with five live ammunition.

Apprehended suspects and recovered items were brought immediately to Banguingui Municipal Police Station for filling of appropriate charges. [PMG](#)



## MARINES ARE BUILT FOR FUTURE WARS, BUT ONLY IF WE REDISCOVER OUR MARITIME SOUL

BY: LTCOL CLIFFORD NICKANOR P BASCO PN(M)

### Introduction

The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) is built for success in future conflicts, but we will only be relevant if we rediscover our maritime soul. The effect of this is three-fold: it promotes amphibious operations as inherently joint, showcases the flexible use of amphibious capability as a strategic hedge and veers the Corps' away from the misconception as a second 'ground force'. Further, this addresses stakeholders' needs as conflicts migrate into the maritime domain characterized by the China Sea conflicts [(South China Sea (SCS) and East China Sea (ECS)].

### The operating environment

The security situation in the SCS is our current maritime frontline reality which is rapidly transforming into this era's version of a global 'cold war'. It has accelerated a regional arms race featuring strides in naval development in response to great power competition between the US and China as both sides and their allies willfully deploy all elements of national power.

This conflict will be defined as increasingly asymmetric, hybrid and maritime. Asymmetrically, China's use of its maritime militia and the "weaponization of the white hulls" come to head with Japan's decade's long thrust for coast guard diplomacy<sup>i</sup>. Other hybrid actions include weaponizing cyber to target critical support linked to dispute<sup>ii</sup>, diplomacy and the 'three warfares' (legal, psychological and media)<sup>iii</sup>. Meanwhile, the United States' strategic maritime shift in its Indo-Pacific strategic rebalance banking on a quadrilateral alliance (with India, Japan, and Australia)<sup>iv</sup> is a deliberate response to China's assertiveness. It is through this prism that the Armed Forces of the Philippines pursues 'world-class' modernization and where the PMC exhibits relevance as the nations' amphibious warfare specialists.

### The PMC's role vis-a-vis legal constraints and the independent foreign policy

For a start, the PMC should not be misconstrued as similar to expeditionary Marines especially the United States Marine Corps. The role of Marines differs significantly for each nation-state. The needs of an emerging green water navy (PN) focused on the defense of its oceanic littorals are different from expeditionary regional navies such as the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Chinese Navy (PLAN) or a global blue-water navy, the US Navy (USN). The RAN, PLAN and the USN envision amphibious forces for power projection. Meanwhile, smaller nation-states and those with legal limitations employ theirs primarily for territorial defense and disaster response.

Japan, for instance, possesses a world-class Armed Force that is constrained primarily for defense by a pacifist constitution. Recently, it activated an Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade (ARDB) under the Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) —no doubt an analogous Marine unit envisioned with capability for rapid response and re-take of contested islands to counter increased incursions not only by China but also Russia in its northern borders. While this move adds to the consternation of other countries wary of Japan's history, the unit is constrained to be non-expeditionary, in contrast to the Marines of other countries<sup>v</sup>.

In the same vein, the PMC's role while dictated by its raison d'être as a "hard-hitting seaborne strike force", is bounded by the Constitutional prohibition against war as an instrument of national policy<sup>vi</sup> and guided by the direction of an independent foreign policy.

Moreover, while the independent foreign policy espouses the ideals of non-alignment, the afore-mentioned maritime security reality dictates the need to maintain strategic depth. Consider, for instance, competing for



strategic interests of major powers in the SCS. Australia's approach is to "support the security of maritime South East Asia ... and address emergent threats in the broader Indo-Pacific region"<sup>vii</sup>; and the US Indo-Pacific Strategy emphasizes the need for quadrilateral cooperation in surface, amphibious and air operations to ensure that "maritime Asia remains open, free, and secure."<sup>viii</sup> vis-a-vis the PLAN's strategy to "build up new types of combat forces (capable) to conduct amphibious operations, far seas protection, and strategic projection"<sup>ix</sup>. The South China Sea dispute is now a powder keg for regional conflict, thus, the significance of sound strategic options.

### Philippines' Defense Engagement: Archipelagic Defense as a Hedge

Spearheaded by a US-Japan alliance, the concept of archipelagic defense<sup>x</sup> presents a counterbalance to the global power ambitions of China. As a US defense treaty ally, the country is seen as a natural geographic barrier, significant in a 'first island chain'<sup>xi</sup> defense. This presents an opportunity to advance current island defense systems in maritime chokepoints (i.e. Palawan, Tawi-Tawi and Batanes). PMC capability upgrades in this space could focus on missile 'ship killers' and air defense systems to defend forces ashore against maritime incursions creating no-go zones for enemy warships.

This capability complements a strengthened amphibious force for maritime defense in order to establish credible deterrence. The envisioned posture coincides with the debut of the PMC's Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs) as a complement to landing dock platforms capable of medium-lift helicopter operations supported with missile defense systems. In a conflict of intertwined maritime powers, an effective archipelagic defense is a sound calculated hedge.

### Building credible deterrence and the joint culture

Unfortunately, while big-ticket naval and air platforms are the rages in the AFP's modernization push, amphibious capability upgrade is less emphasized. Major services naturally focus first on building service-centric warfighting capability. The Navy's naval capability development for defending the littorals features modernizing the fleet through underwater, air and surface assets, while, the

Air Force focuses on ushering the 'supersonic age' of air defense. Similarly, the Army's organizational restructuring intends to enhance its territorial defense capabilities.

Yet, despite all rhetoric of jointness, these projects expose the reality that the major services do not intuitively cooperate with each other. PMC's amphibious capability development bridges this gap.

### An archipelagic nations' joint culture starts with its Marines

This is because amphibious operations are inherently joint and reside in this grey area where the major services intersect as it requires the collaboration of land, sea and air capabilities. It is no surprise that joint exercises center around an amphibious event (i.e. Balikatan, DAGIT-PA, and Kamandag). Thus, the PMC needs to be unequivocal in emphasizing that capacitating the Corps represents a firm commitment to joint operations. Internally, the PMC can be a joint force model capable of maintaining connectivity with other services in the current and future battlefield.

But are Marines sufficiently prepared? Or have we evolved too far and are too comfortably 'grounded'?

### Are Marines 'grounded'? and can other services be amphibious?

The Corps' has always anchored its identity on its naval character to carve out its niche in the armed forces. Through the years, its roles have evolved into multi-use missions based on stakeholders' needs, and now its current deployments which are mostly as territorial forces in the insurgency campaign. Nevertheless, on instances when an amphibious capability is needed, whether in large-scale assaults in the beachheads of Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, island retake in Palawan, response to disasters in Typhoon Yolanda or terrorist attacks on Zamboanga and Marawi, Marines have delivered their trademark for rapid deployment and 'sustained maneuver in the littoral environment'. However, reverting to prolonged sustained ground combat operations has deteriorated much of its modest maritime operations capabilities and stunted development in its modernization. As a result, whether we accept it or not, there is a grain of truth to the claim that Marines are evolving into a second ground force duplicating the roles of the Army<sup>xii</sup>. This,



further, leads to the perception that amphibious operations can be easily learned.

### Can other services really be amphibious and can it be easily developed?

Even the afore-mentioned world-class Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) encountered the same dilemma, albeit, in a more disastrous re-awakening. During the immediate aftermath of the Tohoku Earthquake in 2011, the JMSDF arrived within a matter of hours. However, the lack of amphibious capability for disaster response operations from the sea prevented their immediate deployment. Analysts have opined that the said capability could have saved thousands of lives in the first 24-48 hours<sup>xiii</sup>.

Unfortunately, amphibious capability cannot be developed overnight. More than a methodical process, it is a way of life that needs to be culturally developed with investments on the right platforms and equipment. It requires a dedicated, joint capable unit with a culture for quick response, who embraces the perils of forcible entry in defended beachheads and trained in the complex nature of ship-to-shore maneuver regardless of unpredictable maritime conditions. The nation already has this in its Marines. It just needs to optimize its strength.

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### Implications for Policy and Capability Development

Amphibious capability development is a joint undertaking. Marines need the necessary platforms, ship-to-shore connectors and air cover which are the purview of the other services' modernization/acquisition efforts. Thus, in a joint operating concept, it should be at the forefront of future force planning if the AFP intends to evolve as a joint force through and through.

However, the Marines' future may well rest in convincing stakeholders that a robust amphibious capability is not a one-dimensional investment in external defense; neither is it for power projection nor expeditionary operations. Rather, it offers flexible use case options in archipelagic defense, internal security operations, counterterrorism and HADR. Our willingness to go back aboard ship and operate from there would underscore this point. Doing so preserves our niche as the nation's premier amphibious domain specialist and the glue that holds the nation's joint culture together. 





# AMPHIBIOUS ALL-TERRAIN ARMORED COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT VEHICLE: A FORCE IN READINESS IMPERATIVE

BY: MAJ BERLY CHARITY T BACOLCOL PN(M)



The Marine operating forces (MOF) operates as a mission-tailored, scalable and adaptable, and combined arms force in readiness that could operate in multi-variant manner in the context of naval and joint operating environment (Philippine Marine Corps, 2016). Operationalizing this attribute requires the capacity to conduct the concepts of sea-based maneuvers and operational maneuver from the sea (OMFTS), and land-based maneuvers. The former is operationalized through amphibious maneuvers while the latter is executed in the ambit of sustained maneuvers ashore.

Amphibious Maneuvers, which employ the concept of Ship to Objective Maneuver (STOM), is threefold: Surface Maneuvers (Assault or Insertion, and/ or a combination thereof); Vertical Maneuvers (air assault or insert, and/ or a combination thereof); and Service Support Maneuvers. On the other hand, Sustained Maneuvers Ashore is conducted in the form of either ground combat maneuvers, constabulary operations, civil-military engagements, or disaster response. Regardless of the concept applied, sustainment of the operations is critical to the success of its mission.

Sustainment of Marine Corps operations necessitates the conduct of combat service support (CSS) operations to ensure that reinforcements, supplies and medical services are appropriately delivered where it is needed. It is therefore essential that the MOF's service support have a responsive transport systems to safely deliver the necessary services in the right place at the right time either in rural, jungle, urban, maritime and/ or combination thereof. As such, protection, maneuverability in various terrains, and time element are crucial.

Currently, the capacity of the MOF's CSS maneuver concept wheeled platforms to deliver prompt services is limited in as far as maneuverability, protection, and time

element are concerned. Imperative to CSS maneuvers is the capacity to transport reserves and reinforcements, and deliver supplies in the right place at the right time, as well as retrieve and retro-evacuate battle casualties. Failure to do so will cause operational pause, and its impact to the entire operations could not be over-emphasized. For one, operational pause will definitely affect the momentum and time line, and second, this may allow the adversary to consolidate and reorganize. Given this situation, there is a pressing need to address the limitations of the current combat service support concept and platforms. Regardless of the mode of operations conducted, it is evident that CSS concept and platform has to meet the criteria for maneuverability and protection as well as time element. Maneuverability in the sense that it can maneuver from the ship directly to the objective ashore or further inland regardless of the existence of road network or not. The maneuver should also be accorded with appropriate protection so that appropriate combat service support is delivered safely to where it is needed most, regardless of the situation in the engagement area. Nonetheless, attaining maneuverability and protection for CSS maneuvers in the MOF's various operations are critical to the timeline of the entire operations itself. This will somehow reduce, if not eliminate, the chances of operational pause cause by deficiencies in CSS concept platform. Suffice to say, there is a need to establish a responsive variant of protected combat service support platform that supports Marine Operating Forces' various operations, anytime and anywhere it is needed.

The problem at hand requires a common variant of protected combat service support concept platform that could safely maneuver through maritime, rural, jungle, and urban operating environment, or combination thereof, across the range of the Marine Operating Forces operations. Maneuvering through a maritime environment entails capacity to be launched from the ship and subsequently

maneuvers directly to the objective ashore and further inland regardless of any existing road networks or not. At the rural and jungle landscape, it should be able to traverse rugged and rolling terrains as well as pass through muddy and swampy areas. In the same manner, it must be able to hurdle urban mobility corridor's obstacles such as rubbles and other road impediments. Given the aforementioned criteria for maneuverability, it can be deduced that a responsive CSS concept platform for operations has to be amphibious and all-terrain tracked vehicle.

However, having the capacity to negotiate various Marine operating landscape is insufficient to address the issue on force protection, which the current concept platform is deficient. As such, the design of CSS concept platform has to be with protective rigid covering that could withstand at least .50 caliber projectile. More so, it should also be equipped with at least weapon systems for counter or disruptive fires. That being said, with the capability to traverse and maneuver to any kind of terrain and having the capability to protect its cargoes – supplies and/or personnel – thru its protective rigid covering and countermeasure fires, it is expected that it can timely deliver what is needed in the front line.

Thus, a responsive variant of protected combat service support platform that supports Marine Operating Forces' various operations should be amphibious, armoured and all-terrain tracked vehicle. It is therefore proposed that Philippine Marine Corps to transition from current combat service support concept platform to an AMPHIBIOUS ALL-TERRAIN ARMORED COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT VEHICLE (AATA CSSV) that will transport reinforcements, and deliver supplies and medical services in the engagement area at the right time in maritime, rural, jungle, and urban operating environment, or combination thereof, across the range of various Marine Operating Forces operations. Implementing this will definitely reduce, if not totally eradicate, the issue of operational pause caused by the delay of current concept platform.

A more responsive variant of combat service support concept platform is needed for amphibious maneuvers and sustained maneuvers ashore. It requires CSS concept and platform for Ship to Objective Maneuver, armor protection and all-terrain CSS platform to address the requirement on timeliness and responsiveness, personnel protection, and maneuverability and mobility, respectively. This will reduce, if not eliminate, the issue on the limited capacity of service support maneuvers as among the principal cause of operational pause across the range of Marine Corps operations.

As such, the problem at hand requires a common variant of protected combat service support concept platform that could safely maneuver through maritime, rural, jungle, and urban operating environment, or combination

thereof, across the range of various operations, thus, it should be amphibious, armoured, all-terrain, and tracked vehicle.

The establishment of an Amphibious All-Terrain Armoured Combat Service Support Vehicle (AATA CSSV) as a concept platform for combat service maneuver provides solution to the problem at hand. Moreover, the implementation necessitates multi-dimensional development of capabilities - doctrines, organization, personnel, leadership, training, materiel and technology, and facilities.

Given the aforementioned deduction amidst series of analyses, it is strongly recommended for the Philippine Marine Corps to establish the AMPHIBIOUS ALL-TERRAIN ARMORED COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT VEHICLE (AATA CSSV) as a concept platform for combat service support maneuvers that will transport reinforcements, and deliver supplies and medical services in the engagement area at the right time in any operating environment. To implement this, it is further recommended that the following should be undertaken:

- A. Development of functional and enabling concepts that shall provide fundamental guidance on its employment for service support operations;
- Re-adjust organizational and human resource development endeavors, if only to operational this concept;
- Develop progressive competency training and development, unit training, combined arms exercise, and Fleet-Marine integration exercise in order to ensure assimilation of the concept to the Marine Corps operating concept;
- Develop facilities and platforms to support the administrative requirement of the concept;
- Conduct of further research study to determine the most appropriate AATV CSSV variant for the Marine Operating Forces. [PMD](#)

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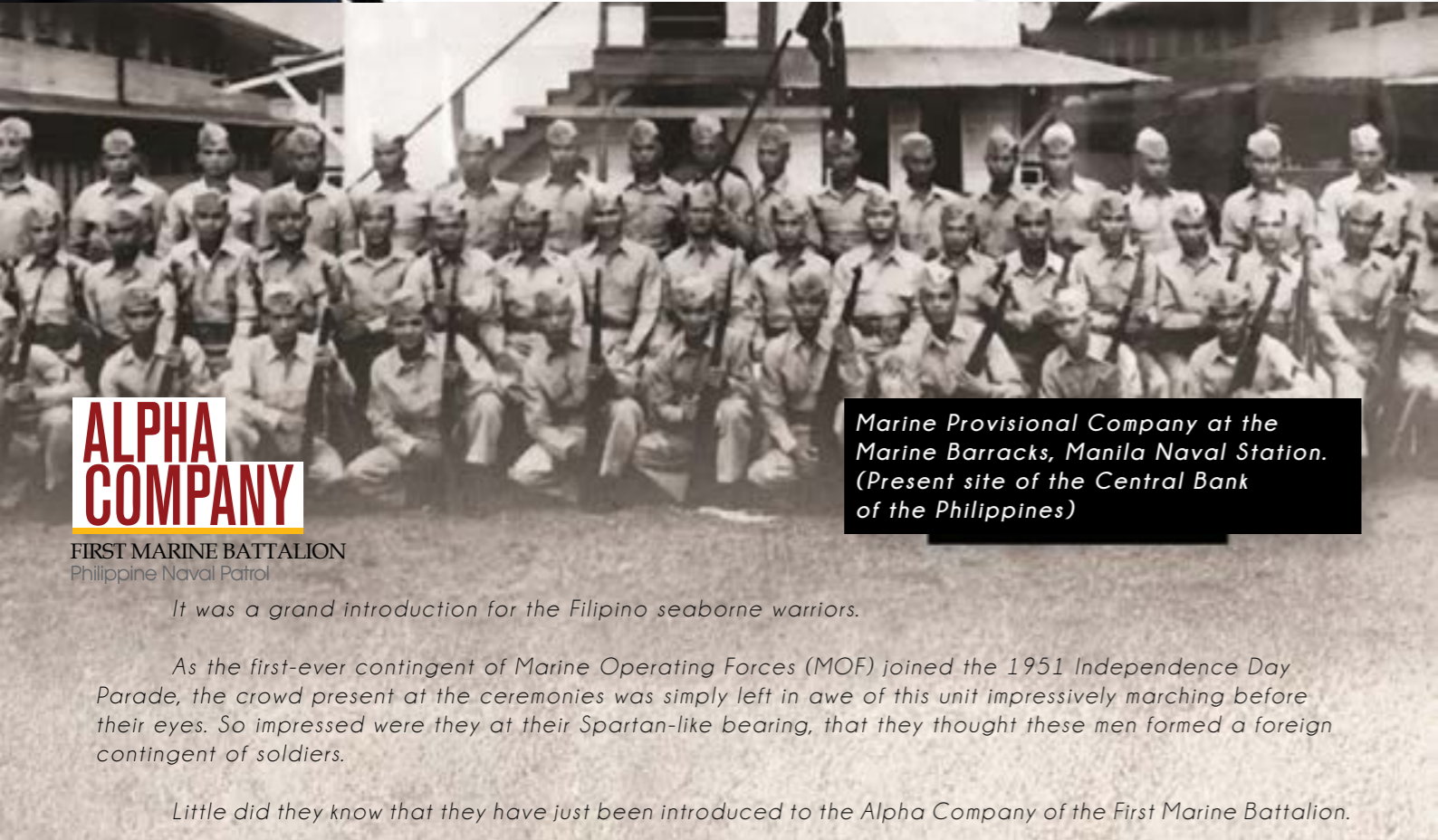




# MARINES

# 101

## THE BIRTH OF THE FILIPINO SEABORNE WARRIORS



Marine Provisional Company at the Marine Barracks, Manila Naval Station. (Present site of the Central Bank of the Philippines)

**ALPHA COMPANY**

FIRST MARINE BATTALION  
Philippine Naval Patrol

*It was a grand introduction for the Filipino seaborne warriors.*

*As the first-ever contingent of Marine Operating Forces (MOF) joined the 1951 Independence Day Parade, the crowd present at the ceremonies was simply left in awe of this unit impressively marching before their eyes. So impressed were they at their Spartan-like bearing, that they thought these men formed a foreign contingent of soldiers.*

*Little did they know that they have just been introduced to the Alpha Company of the First Marine Battalion.*

### AN ERA OF POLITICAL AWAKENING AMIDST AGE-OLD PROBLEMS

The archipelago has been witness to almost four hundred years of struggle against foreign conquerors. By the year 1950, the Philippines was just half a decade into its independence from American colonial rule – its last and final foreign colonizer – turned ally.

Widespread age-old problems such as piracy, smuggling, and brigandry continue in the country after World War II despite revolutionary advances in technology, travel, and the advent of the nuclear age. And with all these, also came the rise of the Communist movement.

The Philippines started to realize the problem of communism in 1928, after small radical labor organization Partido Obrero became the future's Communist Party of the Philippines or CPP. The CPP created a military arm called the Hukbo Ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (HUKBALAHAP) or 'Huk' when the Japanese attacked the Philippines in 1941.

The Huks would later be named as the Hukbong Magpalaya ng Bayan (HMB), but the "Huks" continued in common parlance. The group would have over 10,000 armed and trained men by 1946; most of them have had experiences in combatting the Japanese Army. They operated in areas north and south of Manila violating Presidential amnesty and organizing a nationwide campaign of terrorism when they ambushed then President Manuel L. Quezon's wife, Doña Aurora Quezon. The CPP's atrocities climaxed by declaring that the Philippines was in a state of revolution. By this time, Manila became a hotbed of communism.

It was not long when the administration ensued in a serious campaign against the escalating problem of the Huks. During a Presidential social function, one congressman complained to President Elpidio Quirino about the problem to which the president responded by asking the congressmen about the said concern. Then Congressman Ramon Magsaysay was reputed to have said: "request the President's permission to leave this party in order to prepare my campaign against the Huks". President Quirino granted his request and several days later, the congressman became Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay.

Secretary Magsaysay advocated the formation of a ready sea-borne strike force shortly after his appointment. The strike force could be deployed both against the Huks and the outlaw bands which hid in the country's coastal hideouts. The group's secondary task was to secure both naval and government bases and installations.



General Order No. 319 HAFP dated November 2, 1950



A recruit must be at least 5'6 in height in order to qualify in the Marine Alpha Company. Physical fitness was also imperative.

### THE FIRST WARRIORS OF THE SEA

The Philippine Navy's predecessor, Philippine Naval Patrol was given the mission of organizing, training, and developing the strike force. The Philippine Marines was formally activated pursuant to General Order No. 319 HAFP dated November 2, 1950. With an authorized strength of six officers and 230 enlisted personnel, the activated unit was designated "A" Company, First Marine Battalion. Its headquarters was at the Philippine Naval Operations Base in Manila Bay, Cavite City.

To meet the local operational environment, the company was modified at the platoon level after being organized on the basic structure of a U.S. Marine Rifle Company. Its officers were junior officers from the Philippine Navy who volunteered to serve one or more tours of duty with the Marines. Though their service was without prejudice to their careers in the Navy, many of them would eventually devote their careers to being "Marine Officers". The enlisted personnel or non-commissioned officers, on the other hand, came from volunteers from all branches of service, most of which were Philippine Scouts and Philippine Army veterans. The successful members were products of a very competitive and rigorous mental and physical assessment.

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Senior Grade Manuel Gomez PN, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1941, the new Company went under a 24-week training program that followed the recruitment and training of the U.S. Marine Corps. Veterans would recall the first boot camp vividly as harsh and hard. The final eight weeks, in particular was spent in a field with trainees virtually living off the land anticipating contact with dissident units near the area. The first Marines wore a rag-tag outfit as no proper or complete uniform was available until 1953. These, however, were uniforms from the U.S. Marine Corps with dungaree breast pocket turned inside out.

As rag-tag as they may have looked at the beginning, the esprit de corps that will become the hallmark of Philippine Marines has just been cemented by this first generation of seaborne warriors.





## THE MARINE HYMN

We are the Philippine Marines  
A common sight in the fighting scene  
Our salty boots are never dry  
And people never ask us why  
Until they hear our battle cry

We are Philippine Marines  
Pitted against the toughest fiend  
For once we are provoked to fight  
They better keep out of our sight  
When we unleash our strength and might  
Patrolling shores and sea

Within our country's bounds  
We are the fighting bees  
We are the sleepless hounds  
We chase the renegades

Up the hill down the rough and rugged roads  
Exchanging blows and sharpened blades  
Until they are lying dead and cold  
Exchanging blow and sharpened blades  
Until they are lying dead and cold



## MARINE CORPS OATH

I swear to God and to myself that from this day on, I will uphold the traditions of the Philippine Marine Corps, submit to its discipline, and carry out its mission.

I will always bear true faith and loyalty to the Corps and my comrades-at-arms, and will carry myself as a true Marine, representative of the best soldiery.

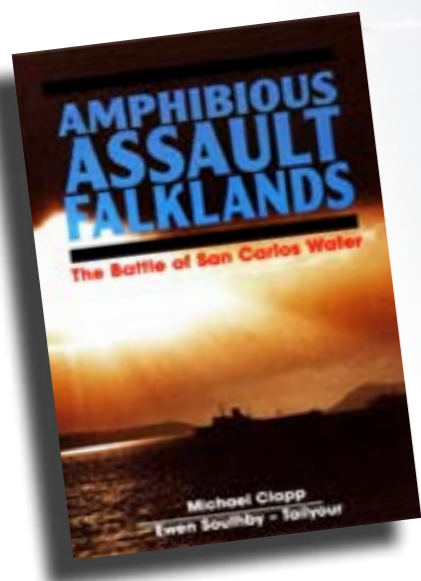
I will strive from this day onward to improve myself physically, mentally, morally, and professionally.

I will always obey the lawful orders of my seniors in a cheerful and wholehearted manner.

I will always uphold the interest of the Corps above my own. I swear to be always a true Marine.

So help me God.





## Amphibious Assault Falklands: The Battle of San Carlos Water By Michael Clapp and Ewen Southby-Tailyour

BOOK REVIEW BY: MAJ ROMULO G DIMAYUGA II

Looking back in the 1950s, the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) was capable of a wide range of amphibious operations. However, this capability largely disappeared towards the 1970s, the kind of situation that Great Britain had encountered. During the 1970s, the British Navy saw a decline in its amphibious operations capability that would take a national crisis, the Falklands War in 1982, for the country in general to rethink the importance of amphibious operations.

The United States Joint Publication 3-02: Amphibious Operations states that amphibious assault is the most difficult type of amphibious operation and one of the most difficult of all military operations due to its complexity, as the author of *Amphibious Assault Falklands: The Battle of San Carlos Water* has shown. His accounts demonstrated the complexity of having to land 5,500 men in a hostile beach with incomplete intelligence on hydrography and threats from mines, ground forces, and more. Even before coming to that, the complexity of having to move by sea for 8,000 miles carrying thousands of military personnel, civilians, vehicles, aircraft, equipment, ammunition, explosives, fuel, supplies, and food, using limited navy and reconfigured merchant ships must be dealt with. To add more, all these must be done and must be concurred by the co-equal Commander, Landing Force (CLF), Brigadier General Julian Thompson and also during several instances, by another co-equal, the Commander, Carrier/Battle Group (CBG), Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward.

*Amphibious Assault Falklands: The Battle of San Carlos Water* is included in the Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps' Reading List 2019. It is recommended that the readers should have read at least Chapter 1: Overview of Amphibious Operations of the US Joint Publication 3-02: Amphibious Operations first before starting this book to have a prior understanding of the terminologies, acronyms, and amphibious operations in general.

Author Commodore Michael Clapp of the British Royal Navy was the Commander, Amphibious Task Group 317 activated in April 1982 in response to the Argentinian invasion of Falkland Islands, a British territory 8,000 miles of the mainland Great Britain. He joined the Royal Navy in 1950 and pursued a successful career commanding several

navy vessels including HMS Puncheston, HMS Jaguar, and HMS Leander. Just before the Falklands War, he was the Commander Amphibious Warfare of the Royal Navy. The designation Commander, Amphibious Task Group is the same as the Commander, Amphibious Task Force (CATF) in current military manuals.

This book is an important reference. Clapp envisioned a book to vividly narrate the debacles and successes of the Falklands War for an accurate history that future amphibious operations practitioners can learn from. Despite being written by the commander of amphibious navy vessels, the accounts are not biased to ships and sailors. The landing force or ground troops have considerable exposure and importance.

On the other hand, the book requires patience in reading especially by those readers who necessarily seek action. The first one hundred plus pages were day to day struggles that Clapp had to undergo due to ambiguous orders and so many unknowns about the mission, the enemy, and his own task group. It was not until page 140 of the book that the actual beach landings for the main amphibious assault was mentioned.

Falklands War is a well-known campaign that has been a topic for publications in the past and current academic papers. Previous books have been written by the CBG in 1992 and the CLF in 1985 but it was not until 1996 that a book about the battle of San Carlos waters in the Falklands has been articulated through the eyes of the CATF.

The author made a great work in pointing out that even with the unpreparedness of the Royal Navy in conducting an opposed amphibious assault, the Amphibious Task Group, together with the Landing Force, were still able to prevail and to emerge victorious on the Falklands War. The world thought that Great Britain, being a traditional naval power, would maintain a great deal of naval military might, however, over the years after World War II, the British Ministry of Defense placed more emphasis on nuclear deterrence and cost-cutting policies which struck the Royal Navy. The result was a disregard of the Royal Navy's amphibious capability which was deemed the least priority during those times. At one point,

its specialist amphibious ships were about to be scrapped-out threatening a possibility that its amphibious landing force would have followed. Little did the country know that its amphibious capability will be the only option against an impending crisis, the invasion of the Falkland Islands by the Argentinians in 1982.

In Clapp's construction of his blow by blow narrative of the operations as it unravels throughout the phases of amphibious operations, he was able to point out that the good relationship, personal and professional, between him as the CATF, and his co-equal, Brigadier General Thompson, the CLF, was critical to avoid misunderstanding and confusion in command and control of such complex operations. Both commanders with very different but complementary functions and problem sets must always agree on everything. He also made it clear that training during peacetime and before operations spell a big difference in actual combat. His accounts on the importance of logistics gave concrete meaning to a famous quote, amateurs talk about tactics, but professionals study logistics.

Clapp's work of demonstrating actual problem sets as they unfold before handing down his own responses allows the reader to put his own foot inside Clapp's shoes. The book was written in such a way that it is informational and is a very detailed reference, or in itself, a battle case analysis.

In sum, *Amphibious Assault Falklands: The Battle of San Carlos Water* is an excellent read for Marines, sailors, and other amphibious operations practitioners because of the wealth of information, real-world scenarios, and decision points that it contains. This book would be highly appreciated by battalion and its equivalent and higher-level amphibious operations planners. It would also be a reliable reference for aspiring leaders from the company down to the platoon in understanding what happens two or three levels up. The book can give them a glimpse of what friction and fogs of war may look like during

such complex operations and can give them a foresight of their critical role during peacetime and combat.

At the end of the day, the book is all about leadership. Commodore Clapp was able to provide his task group with the purpose that sets the ultimate objective of the mission despite the complexity of amphibious operations, the direction that lays down a clear path that everyone down to the last man has to take, and the motivation that kept everyone engaged even when faced with seemingly impossible odds.

Additional books are highly encouraged for a more in-depth understanding of the Falklands War. Brigadier General Julian Thompson, the CLF, wrote the 3 *Commando Brigade in the Falklands: No Picnic*. This book lets the readers experience the ground fights where victory between the British and Argentinians is to be decided. Marines and other ground forces engaged in amphibious operations can quickly realize and relate to the tremendous challenges brought upon by the terrain, weather, and adversary that the Landing Force had to overcome towards overall mission accomplishment. The *One Hundred Days: The Memoirs of the Falklands Battle Group Commander* by Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward detailed the accounts of the commander of the aircraft carriers tasked to provide air superiority against a capable enemy during the amphibious assault. To tie-up tactics to strategy, *The Battle for the Falklands* by Max Hastings and Simon Jenkins is yet another good book to read for it gives the reader a wider perspective of what really happened before, during, and after the war. [PMC](#)

Reviewed by:  
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# Announcing the Birth of a New Force Package

BY: MAJ NORMAN D REYES PN(M)

With the reconfiguration of forces in Zamboanga, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi (ZAMBASULTA) area by Higher Headquarters in the province of Sulu, which is the traditional area of deployment for the Marines, was given to the Philippine Army (PA), hence the preponderance of deployed army units. With this, the 2nd Marine Brigade (2MBde) was re-deployed to Tawi-Tawi. Marine Battalions 1 and 3, a Force Reconnaissance company and combat service support unit respectively, were left in Sulu to support the Army units in the Area of Operation (AO). The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), noting the gap in the command and control of Marine units in Sulu, activated the Philippine Marine Ready Force - Sulu (PMRFS) in 2016 to provide Command and Control (C2) to all Marine forces in the said province.

Among its many accomplishments, PMRFS displayed effective and efficient combat capability during the Focus Military Operation (FMO) particularly in Minis Island and Simusa Island. The latter operations directly and collectively resulted in the neutralization of 30 Abu Sayyaf members and other lawless elements to include five Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) sub-leaders, capture, and arrest of 32 individuals, and surrender of 139 more of the same atrocious backgrounds. PMRFS also recovered 91 firearms together with the surrender and confiscation of 349 others and the successful rescue of 12 kidnap victims to include 3 foreign nationals.

These and other accomplishments in Civil-Military Operations (CMO) were more than enough to ask for from a mere ad-hoc unit. No one can dismiss the effectiveness and efficiency of the PMRFS and the way that it performed, similar to a regular Marine Brigade, and so the concept



of elevating it into a brigade came to the fore. This and the idea of providing leverage in terms of coordination and representation substantially contributed to the idea of promoting PMRFS into a Marine Brigade.

In consideration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Future Force Structure (AFPFFS), the PMC envisions to have three (3) Marine Brigades and one (1) Maneuver Brigade in its efforts to support the Philippine Navy (PN) Active Archipelagic Defense Strategy (AADS). As a future component of the PN, the activation of an additional Marine Brigade would provide the first step towards the PMC's goal of expanding its role to Territorial Defense Operation (TDO).

The AFPFFS dictates that the AFP shall have a Strategic Defense Force (SDF) and an Operational Combat Force (OCF) and that the future PN structure is anchored

with the PN AADS that calls for a Marine brigade under the Naval Maneuver Force (Offshore) and three (3) Marine Brigades under the Naval Maneuver Force (Littoral) as part of the Naval Component Forces for the Operational Combat Forces (p.75, AFPFFS).

Moreover, under Chapter 5, Resource Planning Guidance of the Defense Planning Guidance 2020-2025 (CY 2018), Program 3 shall ensure the full operational capability of the Mine Warfare Group and the base support facilities of the Headquarters Submarine Group. It also states, "the PN shall also activate and organize the Coastal Defense Unit, Assault Armor Battalion, Field Artillery Regiment, and one (1) Sniper Company under the Force Reconnaissance Group (FRG) that will cater to the requirements of four (4) Marine Brigades.

Further laying the foundation for the activation of a Marine Brigade, the Philippine Navy Resource Manager's Programming Guidance 2019-2020 (p.13) states that "the PN shall continue to organize, train and equip amphibious, special operations capable of PN units for force projection ashore and as a component of the AFP Rapid Reaction Force. It further states, under organization (p.12) that N3 in collaboration with PMC shall have activated and organized the 4th Marine Brigade (4MBde) and five other units" (p.13).


With these developments, 4th MBde was provisionally organized and activated as a unit of the PMC, PN effective 24 June 2019 pursuant to Headquarters Philippine Navy (HPN) General Orders Number 48 dated 04 February 2019. The new force package, the 4MBde, born in Sulu, was thus formally activated on 24 June 2019 at the Headquarters, PMC (HPMC), Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Naval Station Jose Francisco (NSJF), Taguig City presided by the former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP.

Currently included in the arsenal of the 4MBde (KUSUG Brigade), are MBLT1, MBLT7, MBLT8, CSSTG-5,

and 62FRC. The "KUSUG", (meaning strong force) Brigade is fighting on the ground in the 2nd district of Sulu alongside the 1101st Brigade and 1102nd Brigade of the 11th Infantry Division Philippine Army and with the 1st BCT, Philippine Army and the 1st SRC, Philippine Army in the 1st district of Sulu.

The 4MBde is already comparable to other regular brigades. In terms of capabilities, the 4MBde is up to the task and challenges and will live up to its mandates and the challenges that lie ahead. With further assistance from the PMC and the PN, the 4MBde can, and definitely will live up to the character and reputation of the PMC as a "formidable combined arms unit that is adaptive to the demands of the fast-changing operational environment and tailor-fitted according to the requirements of a given mission, able to draw from a variety of capabilities and flexible to change from one manner of employment to another in order to complement other operating forces during the course of joint missions with other AFP units, other government agencies, and non-government organization."- [PMC (2018). 7,761 Reasons to Exist ONE Reason to Fight. HPMC.]

In such environments with a very high operational tempo and an area of operation that include all of Sulu's 2nd district, all the littoral areas of mainland Sulu, all its island municipalities, and all the maritime domain of the province, the challenges, as well as the dangers are clear and present thus requiring a considerably high level of operational readiness.

The 4MBde "KUSUG", and all its Operational Control (OPCON) units, is the face and the representative of the PMC and the PN in this part of the country. God willing, with its dedication, commitment and resolve, and with the guidance and extensive support of the Command, the 4MBde "KUSUG" will hurdle all odds, accomplish its mission and mandate, and become successful and accomplished. 



# “Enlisted Personnel Empowerment: An Imperative for the Corps”

BY: MAJ SERGIO RONQUILLO III PN(M)(GSC)

## Introduction:

As the nation continues to face persistent security challenges internally and externally, the progression of modernizing and enhancing the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) capability is always put into question. In the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), despite huge financial and economic restraints, the concept of how it can achieve a highly capable Marine Corps is quite clear. Empowering the Enlisted Personnel (EP) is one of the imperatives for the capability enhancement in attaining a highly effective Marine Corps. Capability enhancement does not necessarily mean the hardware or software system acquisition but also requires crucial and fundamental improvements on the EP's capacity who will be at the forefront of this endeavor. In line with this, examining key aspects of empowering the EP of the PMC on the succeeding discourse.

At the onset, the meaning of empowerment may have a slightly different connotation from the lens of a traditional viewpoint. Nonetheless, for purposes of consistency; 'empowerment means the act or action of granting power, right, or authority to perform various acts or duties'<sup>1</sup>. Seemingly, the term empowerment is seldom used in the Marine Corps to infer about giving or granting power or specific authority to someone, especially to the EP. While it is true that senior ranking enlisted men or women in the Marine Corps are given enough authority to exercise their leadership skills towards their subordinates; very few could articulate and effectively express their intent and ideas towards officers and other individuals alike. This means that there is a certain gap that would

allow the EP to have ample confidence in expressing themselves towards their officers. Consequently, most of the ideas and thoughts which are crucial for every military operation come from officers who will also make the decision themselves. Though it is the responsibility of officers to make the decisions, EP are supposed not only to follow these decisions but also to get involved with the process in coming up with those decisions.

Marines are taught to follow legal orders and this is an explicit tenet as part of the Marine Corps Oath; still, they need to be further encouraged not only to follow legal orders but also have that confidence and competence to be part of the decision making process. Presently, there is no study that will suggest that empowering the EP would be beneficial or detrimental to the current system or routine of the Corps. However, some studies suggest that empowerment could be more valuable. One of the significant findings of research from Harvard Business Institution suggests that empowering leadership for employees is beneficial across different industries.<sup>2</sup> Although there is no specific research that will explain the effect of EP empowerment in the military, the value and benefits the Marine Corps organization could obtain is resoundingly worth of trying. The question now is how to empower the EP that will essentially form part of making a highly capable Marine Corps.

From the past, the Marine Corps has continued to embark on its approach in maintaining and sustaining its initiatives to train and capacitate every Marine especially its EP in order to prepare them for the rigors of warfighting and accomplishing its mission and mandate.



The Marine EP, unlike other branches of service of the AFP, is considered the backbone of the Philippine Marine Corps. This sets the fine difference of the Marine EP from the rest of its counterparts which carries a huge and crucial responsibility. The PMC has deemed it necessary to give due confidence and reliance to its EP as the backbone of the unit since its conception in 1950. This gave an opportunity for every Marine EP to develop their leadership skills which are very instrumental as the Marine Corps evolve into a more potent and effective fighting unit of the AFP. However, merely tagging the Marine EP as the backbone of the Corps without putting sufficient and concrete programs for their sustained development is futile. From some perspectives, the rationale for empowering Marine EP may seem vague and inexplicit. For this reason, looking into a lens that is derived on how the Marine Corps could essentially empower its Marines necessitates an adaptive approach to the EP's growth and development in general.

EP empowerment is critical for the Corps in achieving a highly capable amphibious unit of the AFP that is ready to respond in national security situations. For the Marine Corps to remain capable, it has to endure adaptive solutions to address and complement contemporary security challenges to the nation. History has given clear instruction that merely attempting to maintain the status quo on performance is extremely precarious.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the PMC must continue to evolve and adapt in order to become an effective fighting unit for the foreseeable future. This enormous challenge has already been established, paving the way for setting a clear direction for the Corps. Hence, the realization of the PMC Roadmap was set and primed for the path of the Corps. Its purpose is to focus the efforts and resources towards a common objective by providing a clear direction necessary to forge the future of the Corps.<sup>4</sup> In totality, the PMC Roadmap is a strategic direction and plan on how the Corps can adapt well vis-à-vis the current security challenges. It is also noteworthy to describe that the roadmap is a work-in-progress and

should not be construed as permanent. Hence, it can be deduced that 'adaptation' is one of the key aspects of EP empowerment.

The question of how EP could adapt effectively requires sufficient awareness of the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE). The future of the Corps dwells mostly on how it can entirely improve its systems and effectively adapt to the changing situation in a particular security environment. This dynamic situation is presently construed as volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous or the 'VUCA' concept. The US Army War College first coined the term Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) in the late 1990s which illustrates the nature of the modern environment (VUCA world) that allows little time to identify and comprehend the challenges, let alone evaluate and solve them.<sup>5</sup> With this, it is expected that in a VUCA environment, every EP must be able to adapt to the challenges by enriching themselves with the necessary knowledge and providing themselves enough information and 'know-how'. Gone are the days that the EP are just left with basic information for them to act with. The emerging security challenges posed in a VUCA environment necessitates more than the basics if the Corps wants its EP to be fully empowered. They must know their respective roles on how the entire organization could adapt well vis-à-vis the VUCA environment. Thus, a clear direction must also be provided through the Corps' Roadmap that will allow focus on significant aspects of adaptation. A clear example of this is the concept of 'Strategic Corporal' which illustrates how the EP are subjected to making critical decisions with strategic implications in the COE. The term strategic corporal refers to the devolution of command responsibility to lower rank levels in an era of instant communications and pervasive media images.<sup>6</sup> This means that every soldier even from the lowest ranks must have sufficient awareness on a VUCA environment since there will be instances that they will be required to act and decide on matters that have strategic effects and







Photos by: gettyimages

# “MARINE BATTALION LANDING TEAM OF THE YEAR”

BY: LTCOL ASHLEY N NASTOR PN(M)

02 October 2019 – The Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM) formally conferred to the unit the NFWM Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT) of the Year CY 2019 during the former's celebration of its 23rd Founding Anniversary held at Tangan Gymnasium, Naval Forces Western Mindanao, Naval Station Romulo Espaldon, Bagong Calarian, Zamboanga City.

Operations (FMO) and CMO activities in the unit's area of operations that eventually led to the neutralization of several Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members and other lawless elements. Which proceeded to the capture, arrest, and surrender of numerous individuals with atrocious backgrounds, recovery of assorted high-powered firearms, ammunition of various calibers, and items and equipment with high actionable intelligence value, to include the eventual rescue of various foreign nationals held captive by the ASG in the area.

For two consecutive years (CY 2018 and 2019), MBLT-1 has been adjudged as the NFWM's Best Marine Battalion for having exhibited exemplary performance in the different mission areas of Operations and Training, Administration and Personnel Management, Intelligence, Logistics and Civil-Military Operations (CMO) besting other eight(8) Marine Battalions of the Philippine Marine Corps who are strategically deployed in the NFWM area of operations.

The unit was awarded the Plaque de Merito together with the Best Battalion Streamer from VADM ROBERT A EMPEDRAD AFP, Flag Officer In Command, Philippine Navy as Guest of Honor and Speaker. The award was received by LTCOL ASHLEY N NASTOR PN(M), Commanding Officer, MBLT-1 together with SMS Sonny Jardinel PN(M), Battalion Sergeant Major during the scheduled Awarding Ceremony.

Among the significant accomplishments of the unit during the period include the successful implementation of numerous operational plans and orders that paved the way for the successful conduct of various Focused Military

implications. Hence, empowerment among EP is clearly a necessity in order to respond to the current security challenges. In order to achieve this, the Corps must be able to put a clear vision that will pave the way in realizing empowered personnel of the Corps through a roadmap.

The PMC Roadmap identified what particular aspects it can focus its efforts and resources to achieve its aim. The PMC Roadmap underscores its Strategic Objectives and Initiatives particularly on the importance of reinforcing the seniority system in the PMC organization; implementing job descriptions for every Marine, and developing the full potential of the workforce on both Marine and civilian personnel.<sup>7</sup> These initiatives should not be viewed just as a tacit endeavor but instead, it should be part of regular discussion within the Corps. This is to make these initiatives persist within the organization. For this reason, to be able to help empower the Marine EP; these initiatives must not be overlooked as the Corps enter in the final years of the roadmap.

The Philippine Navy (PN) is also keen on making key commitments in improving its manpower as indicated in the PN Sail Plan. Accordingly, “one of the most important challenges to the Navy is the development and retention of competent and motivated personnel who are going to be the lifeline of the organization’s functions, processes, and capabilities.”<sup>8</sup> This is a testament to the Philippine Navy’s staunch desire to have a strong and credible Navy. As a type-command under the PN, the PMC has aligned its strategic objectives with the PN’s. Both have distinctly presented a vision of how they can

attain an effective and adaptive workforce. However, both in the PN Strategic Sail Plan 2020 and PMC Roadmap 2024, there is no mention of EP empowerment. This may mean that the focus of the command has other priorities. However, there are current programs that the Philippine Navy is keen to implement in enhancing the capacity and competence of its personnel.

### Conclusion:

In essence, the potential for the Marine EP to attain empowerment is unlikely if the Corps will continue its current path. In a VUCA environment, every personnel, not just officers are required and obligated to acquire further knowledge, training, and skills in order to adapt well. Part of adaptation is moving beyond the status quo. This means that the changes that will be introduced within the organization must be systemic. This could be done with the following: initiate concrete programs and adaptive approaches for the growth and development of every EP; implement such programs, conduct an honest assessment, adjust and adapt, then follow through. The overall intent is for the men and women of the Corps not to settle for the status quo but to further the effort in achieving an empowered EP of the Corps. Needless to say, the guiding light in achieving this ordeal is already mentioned in the Philippine Marine Corps Oath, “To uphold the interest of the Corps above my own”. With this mindset, the Corps can attain a highly effective organization capable of dealing with various organizational and external challenges ahead; hence, an imperative ordeal to carry on.

1 Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2019.  
 2 Lee, Willis, and Wei Tian, When Empowering Employees Works, and When It Doesn't, Harvard Business Review, accessed 07 June 2019, <https://hbr.org/2018/03/when-empowering-employees-works-and-when-it-doesnt>  
 3 Philippine Marine Corps Roadmap 2024 (Book 1), 2.  
 4 Ibid, 2.  
 5 Daniels and Kucokozyigit, Emerging Leadership Skills in VUCA World and Their Applications in Military Settings, Old Dominion University, accessed 12 Sept 2019, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328662230\\_EMERGING\\_LEADERSHIP\\_SKILLS\\_IN\\_VUCA\\_WORLD\\_AND\\_THEIR\\_APPLICATIONS\\_IN\\_MILITARY\\_SETTINGS](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328662230_EMERGING_LEADERSHIP_SKILLS_IN_VUCA_WORLD_AND_THEIR_APPLICATIONS_IN_MILITARY_SETTINGS)  
 6 Linda Liddy, The Strategic Corporal: Some Requirements in Training and Education, accessed 27 Sept 2019, <https://smallwarsjournal.com/documents/liddy.pdf>  
 7 Ibid, 24.  
 8 Philippine Navy Strategic Sail Plan 2020 (Book 1, 2nd Edition), 28.

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LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

# ADOLFO S FELICIANO JR

## 0-101338 PN(M)

BY: COL ROBERTO EMMANUEL T FELICIANO PN(M)(MNSA)(RES)

Born on 22 June 1930 in Manila, Adolfo S Feliciano Jr and his family were from Concepcion, Tarlac. After completing secondary school at Ateneo, he studied Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines (UP). Chito, as he was known, was a man of many talents. As a UP student, he was a member of the UP ROTC and Rifle Shooting and Fencing Teams. He led the UP team in various national and inter-collegiate rifle shooting competitions. By 1954, he was recognized as "UP Athlete of the Year" for 4 years and captain of the UP Fencing Team. As a fencer, Chito was a two-weapon Olympic champion using foil, saber, and epee. In 1952, Chito broke the Philippine record in the three-position match at the National Rifle and Pistol Association Marikina range, scoring 1072 x 1200.

Over the years, Chito excelled in numerous domestic and international competitions when he represented the Philippines in the Olympics, Asian Games, and other shooting and fencing matches. Chito had a keen sense of rhythm and movement, which helped him excel not only in competitive sports but also in music and dancing. Later on, he pioneered the show, 'Dancetime with Chito', which he hosted on Channel 7.

In January 1966, Chito broke both the world and the Olympic records for the 50 meters Olympic Prone Rifle Event by shooting a perfect score of 600 x 600 with 18xs during a match at the National Rifle and Pistol Association range in Quezon City.

Chito was commissioned as a Marine Reserve Officer. On 08 November 1969, LCDR FELICIANO was designated Commander, Reserve Marksmanship and Sniper Detachment (RMSD), which was activated in the same year. The RMSD was the first Philippine Marine reserve unit tasked to develop marksmanship skills and sniper capabilities for the Marine Corps. Under his leadership, the 50-meter firing range and building at BNS were constructed.

The RMSD is significant as the first Marine reserve unit dedicated to developing and enhancing the core warfighting competence of marksmanship. At that time the RMSD included newly commissioned reserve officers such as then-LTSG Danilo L Gamboa, LTSG Horacio R Miranda, LTJG Edgar V Bond, and LTJG Eduardo Zalvidea - all skilled members of the Philippine National Shooting Team.

Under LCDR FELICIANO, the RMSD became the principal marksmanship training unit of the Philippine Marines and was the first to receive the newly issued M-16A1 service rifle. Apart from developing marksmanship and sniping in the Corps, the RMSD also positioned the Philippine Marines as the most accomplished among the AFP competitive shooting teams.

In June 1970, then-CAPT RUDIARDO A BROWN PN became Commandant, Philippine Marine Brigade. This was the period when violent anti-government demonstrations were taking place in Manila. At the time, Marine reservists played an active role in securing the Commander-in-Chief and his family. According to then-LTSG GAMBOA, LCDR FELICIANO and the Marine reservists of the RMSD were placed on continuous Annual Active Duty Training (AADT) orders for their assignment to the Presidential Security Command as part of the sniper contingent that secured Malacañang Palace.

In spite of his accomplishments, LCDR FELICIANO was soft-spoken and has shown humility and dedication to his duty as a reservist. During the volatile and unpredictable environment of the early 1970s, J.G. ANSCHUTZ GmbH & Co. KG, the distinguished German manufacturer of competition rifles offered to relocate him and his entire family to Germany where he would be in charge of testing and evaluating the company's products. However, LCDR FELICIANO preferred to stay in the Philippines where he remained active in developing and mentoring civilian and military shooters while leading the RMSD.

On 30 January 1973, LCDR FELICIANO was aboard a PN L-20 Beaver light aircraft with then COMMO RUDIARDO A BROWN AFP, CPMC, and five personnel. They were en route to inspect training being undertaken by the 1st Marine BN at Bataan when their aircraft crashed in Lamao with no survivors. LCDR FELICIANO became the first Marine reservist to die on active duty. Thereafter, the building and 50-meter firing range and Marine Headquarters building were named Feliciano Hall and Brown Hall, respectively.

LCDR FELICIANO's work in the RMSD helped establish precision marksmanship and sniping as a Marine core competence. In 1996, this competence was further institutionalized in the activation of the Marine Scout Sniper School which was then the only institutionalized sniper school in the Philippines. LCDR FELICIANO is further remembered in the Feliciano Award – an award presented to the top graduate of the Marine Scout Sniper School. He is survived by his wife and five children. [PHIC](#)







**UNIT IN SIGHT:**

**FROM ZERO TO HERO**

BY: MBLT-10



Unbeknownst to many, Marine Battalion Landing Team-10, under the leadership of LTCOL FIDEL I MACATANGAY PN(M), is assigned at the northernmost part of the country particularly to the province of Cagayan. A peculiar situation since most of the marine units' deployment is in Mindanao.

When it arrived on Port Irene at Sta. Ana, Cagayan on 11 August 2018, MBLT-10 had its temporary warehouse in an abandoned cement warehouse. The Battalion wasted no time deploying its rifle companies to its respective Area of Operations (AO). In September of 2018, the Battalion found its new home in the Naval Base Camilo Osias at Brgy. San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan since Sta. Ana is the last municipality eastward, the commander later realized that the headquarters is not strategic for the rifle companies.

In March 2019 marked the kick-off of the construction of the battalion's new headquarters at Sitio Burubur, Brgy. Magapit, Lal-lo, Cagayan. The place was a former Civilian Auxiliary Army Detachment. The structures within were badly destroyed by the typhoon and needed to be replaced and renovated completely. A few weeks later, the whole battalion transferred from NBCO to Sitio Burubur. The transfer was not easy due to other commitments on focused military operations and civil-military operations. But with the sterling leadership and impelling motivation of LTCOL FIDEL I MACATANGAY PN(M), the MBLT-10 Headquarters renovation was finally completed in the month of July.

On 23 of August 2019, the MBLT-10 officially conducted its Camp Blessing and Inauguration with MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, and Hon. Manuel N. Mamba, Governor, Province of Cagayan. The activity intended to honor those who outstandingly contributed their time and effort to complete the construction of the headquarters. The activity was literally star-studded as MGEN PABLO M LORENZO AFP, Commander, 5th Infantry Division, BGEN LAURENCE P MINA AFP, Commander, 502nd Brigade, GENERAL JACOB AFP (RET) and GENERAL ALVARADO AFP (RET) attended the said event. Some of the notable individuals who were also present were LTCOL RENATO N NARAG GSC(MI)PA, OG2, 5ID, LTCOL JESUS PAGALA INF (GSC) PA, Commander, 17IB and MAJ CARLO BUBULI PN(M), Commander, NBCO. Furthermore, all the mayors

within MBLT-10's AO were also present: Hon. Nelson P. Robinion- Mayor of Sta Ana, Hon. Marilyn S. Pentecostes-Mayor of Gonzaga, Hon. Joan C. Dunuan- Mayor of Baggao, Hon. Angelica C. Dela Cruz- Mayor of Camalaniugan, Hon. Rodrigo P. De Gracia- Mayor of Sta. Teresita, Hon. Florence Oliver B. Pascual- Mayor of Lal-lo, Hon. Bryan Dale C. Chan-Mayor of Aparri, Hon. Washington M. Taguinod- Mayor of Peñablanca, Hon. Matthew C. Nolasco- Mayor of Gattaran and Hon. Lloyd M. Antiporda- Mayor of Buguey. Ms. Aida Adap CENRO, Aparri, OIC Penro Cagayan, DENR, Region 2, Engr. Norman Cortez Puzon, Manager of Construction of Development Corporation, CEZA, and Atty. Ismael T. Manaligud, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, CEZA were also present.

The activity started with the most awaited unveiling of the inauguration mark embedded on the headquarters' flagpole presided by MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP and Hon Manuel N. Mamba. It was then followed by the actual blessing of the facilities. Despite the heavy downpour, MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP and Hon. Manuel N. Mamba together with LTCOL FIDEL I MACATANGAY PN(M) and other major guests visited all areas of the headquarters which include: the Admin Building, Headquarters and Service Company Barracks, Senior NCOs' Barracks, Battalion Galley, Supply Room, S2 Barracks, Motorpool Barracks, Radio Room, Wardroom, Officers' Quarters, Female Barracks and CO's Barracks. The highlight of the event was the awarding ceremony jiving with the graduation of SOP Training CI-02-19 and the opening of SOP Training CI-03-19. The activity ended with the customary boodle fight.

MBLT-10's journey, under the leadership of LTCOL FIDEL I MACATANGAY PN(M), was a clear manifestation of how others choose the difficult path rather than the easier one for the sole purpose of improving and upgrading the quality of its Development Support Operations in order to ensure security, contribute to the development of the country, and sustain peace to all of its Area of Operations for the benefit of all Cagayanos. Today, MBLT-10 launches series of focused military operations and civil-military operations with notable accomplishments such as the capture of individuals linked to communism and dismemberment of leftist group members both leading to its ultimate mission which is to dismantle the East Committee, Northern Front of the Communist-Terrorist Group. [PMA](#)

# MBLT-10

## "Special Operations Battalion"

BY: MBLT-10



*Si vis pacem, para bellum* is an ancient Latin saying translated as "if you want peace, prepare for war." This means peace through strength. Only if we are ready to kill and be killed, we shall not be killed - such is the paradox of war.

In our country, there is an elite unit called the Philippine Marine Corps that imparts special capabilities to its members and practices only the highest standards in soldiery. However, we do not have the assurance that every marine individual can enhance or at least maintain their capacity for the reason that only a minority have the initiative to develop themselves unless someone will encourage or motivate them. Also, due to different circumstances like being assigned to administrative work, one is unaware that the mastery of the skills and knowledge in combat acquired from past training may decline. One way to sustain the capabilities of our marines is through training. The sole purpose of it, especially in the military is to develop, enhance, and rejuvenate the skills, knowledge, and combat readiness of trainees so as to function effectively and efficiently in times of armed struggle.

Since 2018, the Marine Battalion Landing Team 10 (MBLT-10) has been continuously conducting Special Operations Platoon Training - a rigorous training wherein an individual is tested mentally, physically, emotionally, ethically, and spiritually. It is a 45-day training providing

every trainee the necessary skills, tactics, and techniques needed in combat. It also improves the attitude, further enhances the discipline, and hone the leadership skills of every trainee.

In support of the Commanding Officer's guidance to make every Marine of MBLT-10 be special operations capable, staff and members of the unit continuously work together to achieve the said goal. It all started when the incumbent Battalion Commander, LTCOL FIDEL I MACATANGAY PN(M), assumed command, finishing a total of three Special Operations Training as of this time. Female marines have also undergone the said training, attaching them in the SOP, Headquarters and Service Company during Battalion operations. Continuously conducting courses, another class was just convened last 23rd of August 2019 with the Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps as the Guest of Honor.

As a result of these thrusts, most of the Marines of the Battalion are rated Special Operations-capable branding it as the "Special Operations Battalion". As change is the only permanent thing in this world, one must adapt and take advantage of these changes. By preparing to handle rapidly changing situations, it is imperative to continuously improve warfighting capabilities and capacities making it the Marines' way of life. [PMA](#)





## AN ANSWERED PRAYER FOR THE CONSTITUENTS OF PANAMA

BY: MBLT-1

In line with the unit's efforts in the conduct of Development Support and Security Plan (DSSP) "Kapayapaan" and to provide basic services to its constituents, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 (MBLT-1) led by its Commanding Officer, LTCOL ASHLEY N NASTOR PN(M), in active partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH), 2nd District of Sulu headed by Engr. Al-Makram Arbison, Project Engineer, formally inaugurated and turned-over two units of Solar-Powered Water System Project to the local officials and populace of Barangay Kulay-Kulay and Barangay Bud Seit last 15 and 16 August 2019 respectively, all of Panamao, Sulu.

The project, dubbed as "MBLT-1/DPWH Solar-Powered Water System Project" provides a constant source of potable water supply for the residents of Panamao municipality.

Through the sincere effort of the unit to help alleviate the sufferings of the people in the area as well as to provide permanent solution to address the problem on providing a constant source of potable water to the

populace, the unit painstakingly identified and planned for the necessary requirements through initiating the conduct of active collaboration and partnership with the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH), 2nd Engineering Office-Sulu, local officials, and residents of the area. Their collective conduct of excellent initiative, coordination, and collaborations have significantly contributed to the procurement of the necessary materials and equipment that eventually resulted in the successful construction of the project.

The project will benefit around 12,000 individuals which include nearby residents of Barangay Kulay-Kulay, Barangay Bud Seit, and other adjacent Barangays. The unwavering dedication displayed by the unit's personnel towards public service and their overall concern for the general well-being of their constituents further improves the faith and confidence of the people to the Marines as their partner in nation-building. [PMA](#)

## From "Striking" to "Engaging"

BY: 2LT MARISSA R GUISIHAN PN(M)

The Philippine Marine Corps has always been serious in dominating its mandated tasks. Our achievements say a lot either in combat roles or domestic obligations. Along with its efforts on accomplishing our mission, these peace and development efforts continue to unfold.

The 4th Generation Warfare, the 'Striking Battalion', led by its Commanding Officer, LT COL OLIVER F BAYLON PN(M) aligned his determination in engaging the key leaders in the unit's area of operation. The said development is centered on the People-Centric Approach of the 4th Marine Brigade Campaign Plan "KAHANUNGAN". This unit sustained its Civil-Military Operations (CMO) efforts through people-oriented activities, inter-agency cooperation, building alliances in the government and non-government organizations, as well as strengthening partnerships with the security and development sectors in the pursuit of achieving peace, progress, and prosperity in the areas of concern.

After its valiant deployment in the war-torn city of Marawi during its campaign against the Maute-Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)/Local Terrorist Groups (LTGs) and the unit's campaign against the CPP-NPA Terrorists (CNT), Local and Foreign Terrorist Groups (LFTGs), Armed Lawless Groups (ALGs), and the neutralization of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao area, the Marine Battalion Landing Team - 7 has by far invested its focus in building and creating a genuine relationship with the key leaders and stakeholders in its areas of operation.

Last 16 June 2019, this unit has set foot on its new deployment in the 2nd District of Sulu covering the six (6) Municipalities of Kalingalan Caluang in the mainland of Sulu and the Island Municipalities of Pata, Siasi, Pandami, Lugus, and Tapul. Its mission to conduct Development Support and Security Operations (DSSO) in the area of operation in order to create an environment conducive for sustainable peace and development is highly motivated with the idea of Key Leader Engagement (KLE). Indeed, its humble achievement can speak with the efficiency of the said line of effort when this unit successfully accomplished the following within a month-old stint:

### CMO Activities in the Area of Operations;

- Participation in Community Relations Training;
- Clan War Settlement between Titoh Muno and Chairman Taib Party;



- Support for the Continuous Construction of Battalion Headquarters; and,
- Support to Law Enforcement Operation of PDEA Sulu Province, BARMM and Kalingalan Caluang Municipal Police Station.

The initiative of involving the key leaders of the barangay, municipal, and provincial levels in the peace and development activities of the unit truly paved a way in influencing their decisions to be one with the government advocacies. All stakeholders are also empowered to actively participate in the establishment of a developed community, settlement of clan wars (rido), normalization process of the Peace Inclined Armed Groups (PIAGs), and the isolation of the lawless elements. These efforts are rooted in the Commander's Guidance of using 3C's which stands for Coordination, Cooperation, and Collaboration in all engagements conducted by the unit.

Rifle companies are also postured to replicate the efforts of the battalion. Establishing a good rapport with the community, our potential partners in defeating the Abu Sayyaf Group and other lawless elements will stabilize the security in the community resulting in peace and development.

The paradigm shift from lethal to non-lethal coupled with the trust and confidence gained through Key Leader Engagement (KLE), the current direction will eventually address and solve these social and security issues for a better tomorrow of a better Sulu. [PMA](#)







# 10 YEARS AND COUNTING

BY: MAJ BERLY CHARITY T BACOLCOL PN(M)  
CPT MARIA ROWENA B DALMACIO PN(M)

The RA7192 of 1991 is an act promoting the integration of women as full and equal partners of men in development and nation-building and for other purposes. SECTION 2 expresses that the State recognizes the role of women in nation-building and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. Furthermore, the State shall provide women rights and opportunities equal to that of men.

The RA9710 of 2008 is an act providing for the Magna Carta for women. The State affirms the role of women in nation-building and ensures the substantive equality of women and men. It shall promote the empowerment of women and pursue equal opportunities for women and men and ensure equal access to resources and to development results and outcomes. It is a comprehensive women's human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination against women by recognizing, respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting their rights, especially those in the marginalized sectors. In Chapter IV SEC.15, *Women in the Military*, it states that the State shall pursue appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination of women in the military, police, and other similar services, including revising or abolishing policies and practices that restrict women from availing of both combat and noncombat training that are open to men, or from taking on functions other than administrative tasks, such as engaging in combat, security-related, or field operations.

There are many more policies about women empowerment that the national government formulated, implemented and advocated. With these laws, the

Philippine Marine Corps opened its doors to recruit female enlisted personnel in its ranks. It started in 2009 when the PMC convened three (3) batches of candidate soldiers and among them are females. After seven months of rigorous training, six females graduated from The Basic School, Marine Base Gregorio Lim, Ternate, Cavite.

Before the PMC accepted female enlisted personnel, in 1997, it started accepting volunteered females as officers. They were mostly assigned at the garrison to do administrative and support tasks. Admittedly, the PMC was not yet ready to deploy females in the frontline units. Further, some senior marines were also hesitant to deploy female officers because of the natural danger of the job. Risking the lives of females is generally not acceptable in Filipino culture and it is a natural instinct of men to protect them. Some of these female officers are now retired, but others are already senior officers assigned with important positions inside and outside the Corps.

On 27 April 2009, three batches of candidate soldiers were convened-batch 372, 373, and 374. Among them were the first female Enlisted Personnel of the PMC namely CS Raindy O Latagan (Camarines Sur), CS Maribel Salva (Camarines Sur), CS Rona N Operio (Albay), CS Romeri Ann F Dagoy (Basilan), CS Ma. Jelli B Bermudo (Makati City) and CS Merayda B Alih (Zamboanga City). They graduated on 27 November 2009, after seven months of grueling and rigorous training, performing together with their male counterparts. After ten years, these females, indoctrinated with Marine culture and tradition, are still in the active military service. These pioneers are now


occupying important billets and serving the Corps with honor and pride.

The acceptance of female enlisted personnel into the Corps was spearheaded by then Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN JUANCHO M SABBAN AFP and was supported by his successor, MGEN RUSTICO O GUERRERO AFP. After graduating from TBS, four of them were deployed in Marine Brigades (MBDe) stationed in Basilan and Sulu. Pvt Bermudo and Pvt Alih were assigned at H1MBDe in Basilan with BGEN EUGENIO N CLEMEN AFP as the Commander. Pvt Latagan and Pvt Dagoy were deployed at 3MBDe stationed in Sulu led by BGEN CELESTINO C PEREYRA AFP while Pvt Salva and Pvt Operio were assigned at TBS. They were trained to be Drill Instructors and be in charge of the training of the next female recruits. The six (6) female Marines were encouraged and guided properly to become full-blooded Marines and to cope with the standards of the PMC in performing their duties and responsibilities. They became exemplars of the growing strength of female EP on the Corps.

There are some adjustments made by the organization to accommodate the female population in its ranks and the facility is one of them. Being a previously male-only organization, separate barracks and comfort rooms should be made. Female Marines are also now deployed to the companies of line units performing combat duty assignments aside from office and administrative works. They are also employed in various civil-military operations activities as females are more approachable and more communicative than their male counterparts.

The "masculinity" of the organization was not affected by the coming of the females in the organization. There may be some considerations that we cannot detach from male marines as it is embedded in the Filipino culture such as their tendency to protect and care for their female counterparts as they are naturally gentlemen. Females, on the other hand, make the organization more humane, more compassionate and more caring to its personnel giving emphasis on the morale and welfare of the workforce.

New ideas, new concepts, and new policies have their pros and cons - implementing new policies and working beyond our comfort zones would mean both a challenge and an opportunity. There may be birth pains but as the organization matures, it can certainly adapt to the "new normal".

Currently, the PMC has given it rooms to 98 female officers and 341 female enlisted personnel. Accepting them certainly has its advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, sexual harassment maybe is one of its disadvantages but the Corps has measures in order to guard and protect them from these possible abuses. On the other hand, having enlisted female marines gives the Corps the opportunity to show that the Corps is not only hard-hitting, tough, and mission-oriented but also a compassionate and nurturing organization. Females are the balancing power to ensure that the PMC has a heart for every Marine while maintaining discipline and a heart to serve and protect the country and the Filipino people. 





# Swift, Silent, Deadly: RECON Celebrates 47th Founding Anniversary



BY: 1LT ERWIN M ESTIMO PN(M)

The Force Reconnaissance Group (FRG), formerly known as the Marine Special Operations Group (MARSOG), celebrated its 47th Founding Anniversary last 21 August 2019 at Headquarters Force Reconnaissance Group, Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim, Kaynipa Grande, Sapang 1, Ternate, Cavite. This unit's remarkable and humble beginnings started in 1958 when a number of young Marines joined and trained as the RECON X conducted by USMC Force Recon at Zambales. In 1964, the Marine Scout Raiders Platoon emerged joined by Marines who graduated from the Army Special Forces Class - 02 at Fort Magsaysay, Palayan, Nueva Ecija and Army Airborne Course (BAC-5) in 1963. The birth of RECON started when the Marine Scout Raiders Platoon evolved as the 1st Recon Company on 19 August 1972. It was re-designated as the 61st Marine (Recon) Company on 15 September 1985 followed by the 62nd Marine (Recon) Company and 63rd Marine (Recon) Company which were both activated on 15 May 1989. Later on 19 April 1995, the Headquarters Service and Training Company and the Force Reconnaissance Battalion (FRBN) were activated. Subsequently, the 64th Marine (Recon) Company was activated on 01 August 2001. Then on 01 October 2013, FRBN was re-designated as the Marine Special Operations Group (MARSOG), together with the activation of the 65th Marine Company and 66th Scout Sniper Company. Lastly, MARSOG was renamed to Force Reconnaissance Group (FRG) on 31 July 2018.

Spearheaded by its Group Commander COL ARMANDO B CUSTODIO PN(M)(GSC), the unit's 47th Founding Anniversary was successfully conducted with meaningful upshots. With the theme "A Better FRG: A Collaboration between the Past and the Present, the event was graced by BGEN ARIEL R CACULITAN AFP, the Deputy Commandant of Philippine Marine Corps as the guest of honor and speaker. One of the most renowned

events was the celebration of Recon Night held at Acero Hall, Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last 19 September 2019. It was attended exclusively by all Marine Recon graduates to include MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, former Commandant of Philippine Marine Corps and other senior officers who graduated from Special Forces training at Foreign Military Schools and Army Ranger Schools who became part of the rich Recon history to include former Commanding Officers of the First Recon Company during the 1990's. Highpoints of the event were the presence and participation of some distinguished guests from the former Marine Officers and Enlisted Personnel of the Marine Scout Raiders Platoon and graduates of the Army Basic Airborne Course CL 05 - 1963, and veterans of the 1st Recon Company.

Throughout the years, the Force Reconnaissance Group maintained its tremendous reputation established by Recon veterans who dedicated their lives to bear the weight of its name. For every Marine RECON, completion of every reconnaissance mission is vital and it requires the utmost dedication and perseverance. Bearing the title is an honor, a marker that endured many obstacles and surpassed several conflicts in the battlefield. From the early breakout of the Mindanao War in Tawi-Tawi, in Mindoro Occidental when a provisional Reconnaissance Platoon under the supervision of the former TSgt Renato B Bobiles PM was tasked to capture the renegade Marine SSgt Domingo Clarin PM, during the heights of war in Basilan, Palawan, Sulu, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao in 1970's, the Recon personnel stood their ground and withstood the test of time, accomplishing missions after missions. Since its inception, it continues to be the bastion of Special Forces operators willing to sacrifice their all for the overall benefit of the Corps. Relatively speaking, a Recon Marine's motto of "Death before Dishonour" continues and will be the driving force for all generations to come. PMC



## A TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

by: SMSgt Allan S Ledesma PN(M)



The formerly unused Marine Officers' Wardroom was recently renovated and transformed into the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Mess Hall through the initiative of MGEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP, former Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps (CPMC). The project was completed thanks to the fruitful collaboration with the Philippine Marine Corps Officers' Spouses Association Incorporated (PMCOSAI) headed by Mrs. Anna Parreño, the PMCOSAI Adviser, and Mrs. Maritess Lazo, PMCOSAI President; Marine Reservists lead by BGEN BENJAMIN I ESPIRITU AFP (RES), Chairman, Philippine Marine Corps Board Of Adviser, and other stakeholders.

LTCOL ANTONIO L INDAB JR PN(M), Commanding Officer, of the Headquarters Battalion was firm on his objective to immediately complete the project to benefit all Enlisted Personnel of the Marine Corps,

especially those who undergoing Career Courses under the Marine Corps Force Development Center. The said project is highly anticipated as it will serve as a decent messing area for all Enlisted Personnel.

With the urgency of the said project, the checkup was immediately completed with the noteworthy efforts of PEU NCOIC, MSgt Navalta PN(M) and all other Marines who participated in the Headquarters Battalion working party.

The inauguration took place last 24 June 2019 and was attended by the former CPMC, PMCOSAI members, and other members of the Philippine Marine Corps.

The Enlisted Personnel of this Command is grateful for this development. PMC





# The Patriots of the Waters

by: Ms. Mae Anne F Villa

If I would have to describe the life of a soldier in a single word, it would definitely be "selfless". While some of us may say that it is risky, hard, or even demanding, in this cruel reality, it might also be considered as a perfect blend of all of those. However, beyond every word that has been mentioned, nothing beats the painful and blissful meaning of being selfless.

Upon entering the military service, one must understand that after committing yourself to a life on the battlefield to protect the country, you are also bargaining YOUR life to the grave. How patriotic could they be when their only goal in life is to protect our motherland, even at the cost of their own lives? On top of that, they also need to prioritize their service over their families and friends, which most of the time leads them to isolation and seclusion among family members. Regardless, they still remain to secure the borders of our nation, making it safe to live in despite all the intrusions, threats and terrors ever pressing in this present situation.

Among all the military branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Marine Corps serves as one great pillar in rendering an outstanding onus in servicing every Filipino nationwide. Since its establishment on November 2, 1950, the organization has hardly failed to disappoint the country. Ever since the Marines have always been seen in action providing amphibious assault and fire-support in all active wars. Their presence has also been visible in battles not just with communists and Islamic militants, but with terrorist groups as well.

The Philippine Marine Corps focuses on their mission and vision to ensure the security of the people in their proximity, and to provide them with a safe and harmonious living environment. Their service, which initially prioritizes margins of water in the Philippines, is highly being praised by the entire Filipino community. *Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan* (Honor, Duty, Valor), being their organization motto and core values, has been lived up even up to this very date.

Of course, we need an effective military for the defense of our country, but it is sad when we reach a point where scrutinizing the cost of that defense is viewed as unpatriotic. At present times, the opinions regarding the military force in the Philippines has become a lingering fiasco among elitists, educated and even with the uneducated. Due to President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of Martial Law in Mindanao, the state of military presence has then again been questioned, comparing it to the Marcos' regime. This ignited fear and distress to Filipinos, particularly to those who reside in rural areas. The military's fight to eliminate this bad impression on them has become crucial and unfair.

With this kind of problem being laid, the Philippine Marine Corps and the entire Armed forces of the Philippines, have mandated activities to abolish the spread of this recurring issue. With the help of the National Government, NGOs and partner stakeholders, they have staged events which are beneficial not only to the community they are assigned to but also to the rebel returnees who are willing to improve their lives and their future. This serves as their first step in achieving liberation from the impurities that they went through.

Aside from their routine posting assignments, the PMC also takes part in relief operations. In fact, when the situation slips out of control of local authorities, they are the ones who are called first. They are trained and geared with vital equipment to deal with any natural or manmade disaster. Despite facing tough terrains and risking their lives, these soldiers have more meaningful existence.

Their role in society is becoming more and more vital as the years go through. Many times, they need to go on long missions to remote areas that lack even the basic facilities. They are being cut off from the main cities and towns. Nonetheless, they still safeguard a peaceful environment in the country at all times. This alone proves the Marines' undying selflessness for the sake of achieving peace and harmony for their beloved country.

There is no doubt that the person who decides to join the military loves his country dearly. He is well aware of the difficulties he may have to face during his journey as a soldier. However, he still decides to tread this path. He needs to undergo rigorous training for years to master the warfighting skills needed in the field. Only someone who has the ability to put his personal interests aside and is willing to sacrifice everything for his country can be called a true soldier.

The Marines and any other members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines should undoubtedly be referred to as the real heroes. Discipline, determination, robust physique, mental strength, good intentions and the love for their countrymen – they possess all these qualities we look for in a hero. We must look up to them and inculcate these qualities to enhance our personality and take our life in the right direction. More so, we must never put whatever they have fought and still fighting for in vain. **PMG**

## Citizen Warriors

BY: 2LT CLARENCE DELFIE M GAJITO JR PN(M)

In 1971, Mr. Alfredo Santiago, then the director of Mindanao State University – Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-TCTO), requested the establishment of a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit in the college pursuant to the National Defense Act. As a result, the Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC) unit of the college was formally established in the early part of 1972 however, in September of 1972, Martial Law was declared all over the country. During that time, many of the cadets of the college were recruited by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) prompting the school authorities to suspend the operations of the unit. The ROTC unit, with the mission to train and develop college students in the rudiments of military service and produce capable AFP reservists, was then reactivated in July 1980 under the supervision of the Naval Reserve Command (NAVRESCOM) South. In recent years, the MSU-NROTC unit was constantly engaged by the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 (MBLT-9). The school and its NROTC unit actively participate in Civil-Military Operation activities. In 2017, the battalion was invited by the university to conduct lectures on military subjects, such as basic weapons operations, and this has somehow initiated a spark for collaboration between the battalion and the university.

On 22 August 2019, MBLT-9 headed by the Commanding Officer LTCOL HILARIO C DE VERA JR PN(M) (GSC) paid a courtesy call and conducted a dialogue with Dr. Mary Joyce Sali- Guinto Ph.D., Chancellor, MSU-TCTO. This initial meeting paved the way for a partnership between the unit and the university and its NROTC program. During their conversation, the chancellor expressed her interest in the proposal of the unit to assist the Naval Reservist Training Staff who are currently handling the training of the students. The aim of this initiative is to further strengthen the reservist training in this part of the province and promote the AFP values into the youth. At present, the Marines of MBLT-9 handles the training on subjects, such as Close Order Drills, to around 300 college students of the university. The Marines also conduct classroom instruction to emphasize the importance of law enforcement and proper wearing of the uniform as a sign of respect and discipline.

As a testament to the school's increasing interest in the program, the MSU Chancellor and her officials have signified their intention to be Marine Reservists. The cooperation between this unit and the university promises a better future in providing the country with well-trained, well-disciplined, and highly capable AFP reservists. **PMG**

Photos by: thelasallian.com







# SERVICE: A PERSPECTIVE

BY: CPT JAN P MALANA PN(M)

## Service that goes a long way...

After a year of fruitful deeds from my previous assignments in Misamis Oriental, Zamboanga City, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and now, again, transferred to Palawan after 46 years of MBLT-3 existence, we were again devoted with faithful service in serving the people after a lot of challenges.

"Magsukol bro sa lahat ng tulong ninyo sa amin at sa pagbabantay sa lugar namin lalo na sa mga tulong niyo sa mga bata..." (*Thank you, brother, for all the help you have given us and also for securing our place and most especially for all the help you have rendered to our children*)" were words uttered by one of our friends when we left Panamao, Sulu as one of our Area of Responsibility after more than two years of stay prior to re-assignment in Palawan last 27 July 2019. The Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MLBT-3) of Philippine Marine Corps is making history by working together with the other government sectors in the Province to forge relationships. True to its name, the Battalion never failed to offer its sincere, loyal, honest, and wholehearted service to the nation. As champions for peace, the dedication and hard work to promote the safety and protection of the citizens is what the unit stands for. Geographical features separate the area from dynamic development activities such as educational, livelihood projects, quality health services, business and commercial activities, football clinics, empowering youth leaders and other countless opportunities needed by the community to have a good quality of life. With the intensive thrust of the Philippine Marine Corps, MBLT-3 addressed the said issues and decided to conduct the ALL-IN-ONE MISSION activities in their area of responsibility purposely to extend care and compassion by giving smiles and happiness to the community.

The All-In-One Mission, in partnership with the local government units and stakeholders, aims to deliver free basic and social services to the less privileged members of the community of the province. Services included in the

All-In-One Package are the following: medical consultation, dental services, eye check-up, free circumcision, minor surgeries, health education, supplemental feeding, ice cream feeding, story-telling, film showing, giving of free medicines, fun Games, mascots entertainment, free haircut, and distributions of school supplies, slippers, mosquito nets and hygiene kits to selected barangay beneficiaries which are usually situated in the far-flung areas. The All-In-One program aims to elevate the living condition of its beneficiaries. With the target of instilling in the families the importance of health and education, the program is believed to provide healthier, secured, and better lives for the Filipino people. The dynamic process does not simply provide but rather develops awareness and responsibilities which can be more beneficial for community in the long run.

### Service that does not ask for recompense...

As marines, our service always entails support to our government's programs: humanitarian assistance, civic programs, and extending hands to those in need. It is part of our mandate as the protectors of the country and its people so we devote our time in missions to ensure safe, secure and better lives. In all of these, we stand by the famous saying for service: "Give without expecting anything in return."

The MBLT-3 has been more than grateful for the trust and confidence that the local government, partners and stakeholders have bestowed on them. We are fortunate that we have such an opportunity to take part in realizing our noble mission. The trust is given to us and the success of the mission would have been enough. We do not serve to know "what's in it for us" but "what's in it for our countrymen with the demands of our people".

With the honor, recognition, and pouring of support bestowed upon us time and time again, our hearts cannot



help but be filled with the affirmation that we indeed are transforming lives with our noble profession. It is a nod of approval from our partners and stakeholders that denotes our performance of our mandate, not only to defend the country's territory and sovereignty but also as an agent of peace development and game-changers to contribute in uplifting of living conditions and learning environment of all Filipinos.

### Persistence and loyalty in serving...

Challenges surely come our way. Our service undeniably cost us a lot—the energy lost during operations, the priceless time that we have devoted which we cannot take back no matter what, the meager resources we managed to stretch in order to accomplish the mission, etc.

But who says service is inexpensive? Who says that service will not drain with energy? Will not risk our lives? No one. And the thing is, we know it. We know how much it will ask from people but we disregard the high price, will and still choose to serve. Why? Simply because seeing the smiles on other people's faces, feeling the warmth of other people's hearts, and knowing the hope our countrymen to have better and peaceful lives are truly incomparable and priceless.

The MBLT-3 strode with the flair of the sincerest service to touch the ground of where our duty will call us. We have seen the community folks show eagerness and vigorous excitement to welcome us. Some children were hesitant, indifferent, and afraid, while others are consciously aware. The tone that touches most (as we called it the touching moment of the ground) was the conduct of "All-in-One Mission".

Subsequently, with hundreds of community people present, the entertainment of our friendly Two Marine Mascots namely Private Thirdy and Private First Class Trinity whose missions were to bring a lot of happiness and to leave a lot of smiles to people. Such as any gathering, people were very happy and gave their utmost gratitude to the benefactors with genuine smiles.

These dedicated efforts in the different community-based activities will serve as a halo for the unit in the eyes of the residents. Good community relations are crucial to the success of the unit in gaining support from the community. One of the teachers in the school spoke to me as I was fixing




the chairs in the room and said, "*Salamat talaga, Sir sa pagbahagi ninyo ng tulong sa tulad naming mahihirap*". As I heard those words of gratitude, I said to myself with a smile, "*Thank God, I am part of this calling*".

As we come to understand the trends that occur from our recent views of the mission objectives, the needs of the communities are simple tokens, yet bigger in scope. Bigger in scope, in that it aims to fill in the gaps left by the deficiencies and scarcities in basic necessities. Candidly, MBLT-3 has an inspiring tagline: "SERVICE IS A PASSION FROM THE HEART" – "Kung KayangTumulong, DapatTumulong". Indeed, we should always embrace that simple line in service to the people in conjunction with sustainability and restoration of peace and prosperity, unity and diversity; to eschew from societal cleavage rooted from the force of ignorance and poverty.

The Philippine Marine Corps is consistent in its mission, with the end view of realizing the Filipino's aspirations for peace and security. As the author of "The Art of War", philosopher, writer and military strategist in ancient China, General SunTzu said, "The Supreme Art of War is to subdue the Enemy without Fighting," and this is what the MBLT-3 is doing.

### Winning Peace...

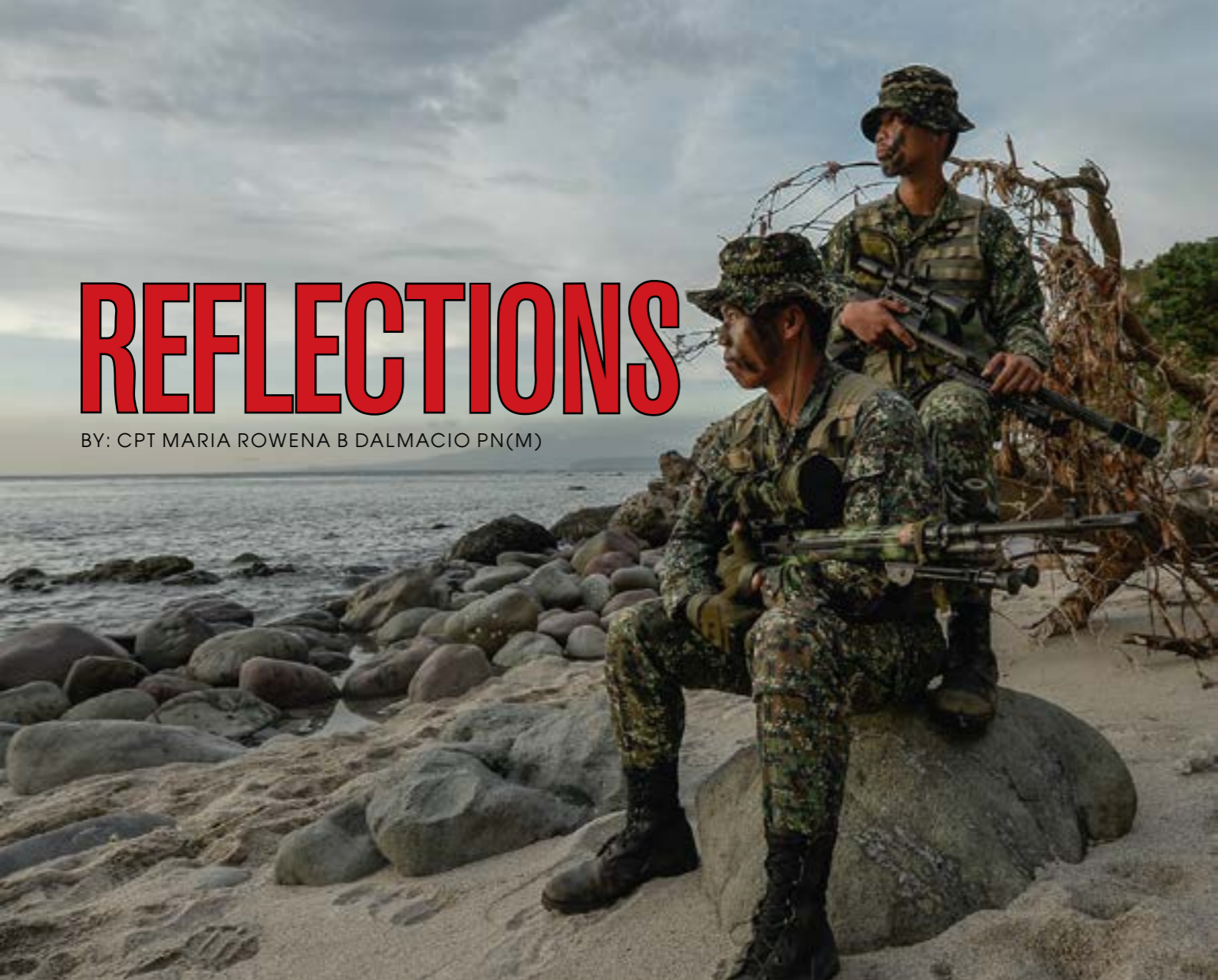
MBLT-3 shows its sincere commitment to accomplishing an admirable life for the people, recognizing them as contributors to peace and development as the journey continues. This entire endeavor is an implementation of munificence that is not limited to material resources only, but most significantly, the rewarding results of an initiative forged through a dignified commitment towards national progress and development for lasting peace.

Indeed, MBLT-3 of the Philippine Marine Corps has shown that the uniform is not only a symbol of vigilance but also, a symbol of caring and sharing in a world of disaster and strife. We have kept all threat groups at bay. We have contained the tide of terrorism. We have pushed back vested interests. We have upheld military justice. We have maintained command discipline and rallied around the standard. MBLT-3 will continue its mission to create a physically and psychologically secure environment, conducive for sustainable development, equality, and lasting peace wherever our call of duty will demand us. 



# REFLECTIONS

BY: CPT MARIA ROWENA B DALMACIO PN(M)




I am a believer. I am a dreamer. I am an idealist. I certainly deliver what is asked of me because I am a Marine and whatever I do will always reflect on my whole being and my whole organization. But as tough as I am, this will not be an excuse for me to not step onto the reality of life. For the reason that a Marine is still human and we still have to face life as it is. There are moments in our lives where we have to pause and think without the thought of surrendering and this is where we start to have our own reflections.

There are times when you think you've had it all. But life will always be a cycle. It will have never-ending ups and downs where people can learn from the various hurdles that they may face along the way. However, do we really need to experience all of these challenges in order for us to learn and grow?

People are people. Unpredictable, immeasurable, impulsive and fragile. We are just humans who are as delicate as crystal glass. Once broken, it can never go back to the way it was before. I wonder if a broken glass can still

be as strong as it was before. I wonder if we are still willing to hold that broken glass.

Every individual has his own way of perceiving a situation. Some believe that fragility can be perceived as an opportunity. The fragility is what makes it valuable; while others would look at it as a weakness. Whatever the perception of an individual may be, it only boils down to this realization. You should treasure every moment of happiness, that you have in your heart, with your loved ones, because, who knows it may be the last.

Life is unpredictable. When given an opportunity to do a task, do it with all the best that you can. It will either make or unmake you and you might just not have the opportunity to do it again but a man in nature is impulsive yet is also rational beings. Beyond the training and equipping, we must remember that inside that armor is a Marine who needs to be respected, valued, and guided. And here enters the art of the Marine Corps Leadership. 



# DEVIL DOGS

BY: 2LT ARGEL LOUIS G DELOS REYES PN(M)

Being few, Marines believe that they are better and different from other services. There is a sense of elitism common among officers and enlisted personnel. The Marines have a unique warrior philosophy that sets them apart from other branches of service and this distinction attracts men and women of special character to want to become Marines.


The Marines has a special molding of character; officers and enlisted personnel go through the same rigorous training and indoctrination that creates mutual respect and understanding among them. Both the training of the recruits and officers are conducted at The Basic School in Ternate, Cavite. This cohesion is endowed during the basic training, officers and enlisted personnel are instilled with common core values, honor, and sense of duty. This gives them pride of being a Marine, that as a Marine you have a duty to God, Country and to your brother Marine; a Marine will always be faithful to the Corps and his brother Marine.

Discipline is always associated with the Marine Corps; it is manifested by how they carry themselves in their uniforms and their actions or speech. The Marine Corps' bearing is set apart with other services. Throughout a Marine's military career and after retirement; they illustrate the self-discipline, confidence, and pride of being a Marine on a daily basis. A Marine has a commanding presence which demands attention, profound respect and reverence. Discipline enables Marines to overcome self-interest; it motivates an individual to carry out a mission through self-restraint, a Marine will always hold the interest of the Corps above their own. This is not blind obedience; it is faithfulness. Marines do not need incentives to be offered to them, an individual Marine's accomplishment is the accomplishment of the entire corps. Every single Marine's mind is conditioned in a manner which makes him think that his actions will affect the entire organization. This cohesion and unity are forged by discipline and selflessness and a strong esprit de corps.

The Marines has a clear mindset when they have a mission, and that is being successful and adding another victory for the Corps and his brothers. There is nothing more

valuable to any Marine but his brother Marine who fights alongside him. This shared conduct is a product of rigorous training and indoctrination, the adversities in combat which are inherent to the Marines' area of operations strengthens the bond between brothers. A loss of a fellow Marine is very painful; it is a hard thing to understand the lamentation and grief of losing a fellow Marine in combat. Any Marine is ready to lay down his life for his brother Marine. This brotherhood represents a great deal more than any single individual in the organization.

The Philippines, being an archipelagic nation is in need of seaborne warfighters. Their naval characteristic allows them to utilize the sea as an avenue of approach to their objective. Most of these 7,641 islands can be accessed thru the sea. The littorals, beachheads, rivers, and jungles, the Marines can address them all. This is as clear as daylight as the Corps is always at the forefront of any operations for they are the fastest deployable combat force in the Armed Forces. The Marines are always fit and ready to fight. Despite lacking resources and number, the Marines have proven that they are the Force of Choice when it comes to warfighting; may it be in the seas, jungles, mountains, or the streets.

An individual Marine throughout his military career is asked many times why he chose to become a Marine, numerous times he may also ask himself why. People who join the Marines have varying answers to this question that may have existed since the time the Corps was formed. The men and women, who typically join the Marines and thrive, are the kind of people who do not crack under intense pressure or adversity. The Marine Corps has attracted individuals with outstanding character and dedication since its conception. The Marine Corps will continue to mold young men and women into the finest breed of warriors for as long as it will exist. It has immortalized its motto of "Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan" (Honor, Duty, and Valor) in the hearts and minds of every Marine; to the living and to those who have perished. 



# ETHOSCOPE

BY: 2LT SYLANE A DE GUZMAN PN(M)

The military atmosphere is relentless in cultivating a very peculiar cosmos that only the brave can withstand. It has provided, and at the same time consumed, every courageous being to prepare them to become what they ought to become. Thus, despite the shatters, the beaming ideas of whatnots, and the steely approach of discipline, I smile every time I hear a Marine saying: "Thank GOD."

The Philippine Marine Corps existed since the 1950s and from then on, written history is never enough to recount the stories of the unfaltering Corps' heart. It has sincerely provided service to the country without choosing, without seizing, and without hesitating to its command. And that is where true resilience, a genuine Marine takes his courage before a scheduled bout.

Thus, in its sixty-nine years, it is undeniable that the Corps' identity and uniqueness from the other branches of service becomes a question of "what" and for some a misconception of the real value and slice of the task of the PMC in the country's world of combat.

Hence, in releasing the Philippine Marine Corps Ethos, PMC has unquestionably seen its north star and is now exemplarily establishing its leggings to meet and align with what the Corps is destined to become.

## SEABORNE WARFIGHTERS

From the time it was conceived, the Philippine Marine Corps is the ground combat instrument of naval power. Its design is based on the skills to embark and disembark naval platforms, aircraft, and other landing capabilities without any detrimental effect on the troops' will and capability to pursue its objective and eventually accomplish its mission.

Joint Operation Actors. PMC is never blind to its need for the other branches of service to successfully fulfill its mandated mission and at the same time its working value, which delivers the best service for the entire Armed Forces to be operational.

Seaborne warfighters and Joint Operation actors are roles long known by the military community, but never understood as a major role the Marine Corps is interplaying since its existence. Thus, with PMC Ethos as a guiding tool, a Marine will never lose sight of what is expected of him and what he can do to excel in playing his part in the battlespace.

However, it is pertinent that the identification of the roles of the Corps is coupled with a stronger belief that will help in cultivating a deeper perspective of what the Corps is really all about.

Each Marine, regardless of his rank or number of years in the service, must always uphold the three promises he always makes when he recites the Marine Oath: to God, to the Corps, and to himself.

## PROMISE TO GOD

Religion plays a vital role in the military context not because it can be considered as mainstream to any organization but because of the irrevocable truth that it is an anchor that provides stability and grip to make any Marine stay on his ground.

Declaring a marine's oath to God as its starting line creates a powerful discourse to the Almighty that every Marine will always try to do his duties in a morally accepted manner wherein carrying out of mission is at pace with giving glory to the Creator. Further, it magnifies the essence of a genuine commitment to serve God and the nation.

## PROMISE TO THE CORPS

The long line of traditions and distinct culture of the Marine Corps makes it very special compared to other branches of service. Its core values of HONOR, DUTY, VALOR, ESPRIT DE CORPS, DISCIPLINE, and EXCELLENCE are not simply words meant to be spoken or used in the written context, rather, they are living terms that are put together to create a true Marine.


Thus, a Marine's promise to uphold the interest of the Corps above his own is not an empty can of goods trying to be sold, rather, an understatement of the growing seed planted in every Marine's mind, heart, and soul.

## PROMISE TO ONESELF

Entering the military is equivalent to depriving oneself of civilian activities that are deemed ungentlemanly in conduct by society. It is the responsibility of every soldier to restrain himself to things that may harm his image or the image of the Corps. These restrictions bend a soldier's perspective. This set limitation results in a tree of indisputable character that enables every Marine to walk with dignity.

Further, to develop oneself physically, mentally, morally, and professionally are takeaways that can never be bought by any currency. The volumes of lessons, the bad and good experiences, and the nerve-whacking decisions one can remember in his career has no material equivalent or substitute. Hence, a Marine's promise to himself is and will always be grouped with the first two promises because never will a Marine operate for himself alone, but always for God and for the Corps.

Time is an important variable in achieving these promises to GOD, to the Corps, and to oneself. And it is never new to anyone that there will be moments of queries and misconceptions as days unfold, but the power of knowing your ethos is enough to turn those questions to just realization and misconceptions to audible discernment that will help every Marine be back on his track.

The sun is almost up and I'm starting to hear chants outside, I again close my eyes and say, "Thank you, GOD. 



# The Joker vs The AFP

BY: 2LT GLYN ELINOR B MARAPAO PN(M)

"Some men aren't looking for anything logical, some men just want to watch the world burn." - Alfred

With the release of its most awaited movie this October, it is just fitting to dig deeper into this iconic character and examine his madness through the eyes of the military.

Joker is a psychopath criminal warped in a sadistic sense of humor and favors dressing up as a clown. He is Batman's worst nemesis, though ironically, Joker possesses no superpower. Instead, he uses his expertise in chemical engineering to develop poisonous or lethal concoctions, and thematic weaponry, like the razor-tipped playing cards, deadly joy buzzers, and acid-spraying lapel flowers. But what makes him most dangerous is his unpredictability.

Throughout the film, the Joker often tells false stories about his origins, leaves misleading pieces of evidence, and teases opponents by suggesting a clear motivation.

In the military, the planning works by first accumulating as much information about the enemy than having keen assumptions about what the adversary's motives are, be it financially, security, freedom, fame, revolution or anything. From here comes the projected course of actions of the enemy and the appropriate preventive measures against it. Having an erratic enemy with no clear motives or purpose is a different story. It can place its opponent, no matter how strong, big, or technologically advanced they are, at a disadvantage.

## Sounds familiar?

This December marks the 51st anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). The CPP has outlived presidents waging what the rebels call as 'protracted war' or 'armed struggle'. However critics are quick to describe this as banditry since the CPP never follows the rules of war.

The AFP consists of three main service branches with different specializations, covering from the air assets to the ground forces to naval capabilities. Insurgents like the CPP, do not even have a single plane, tank, or ship yet the war continues.


After 50 years of deciphering the enemy and improving the AFP's military assets, the problem may not lie in the capability of the country's soldiers alone but rather with the enemies themselves.

Like the Joker, the rebels may have had a clear purpose then. Yet for many years, bounded by conventions and restrictions, they struggled to continue the war, until they discovered the utility of unpredictability and taking unconventional risks. Unpredictability yielded an important short-term advantage. However, in order to continue, they had to be more unpredictable, and as their unpredictability increased, their underlying motivations disappeared until there was nothing but the unpredictability to sustain them.

## What then?

The AFP, in order to counter the enemy's unpredictability, needs to make the insurgents predictable. This can be done by taking away their options, as proven during the American Civil War between General U.S. Grant and General Robert E Lee. Grant solved the unpredictable Lee by pressing his attack everywhere, leaving Lee with no choice but to defend. Lee, denied with the ability to maneuver the troops between theaters, gave a single command to his soldiers - that is to defend every attacking force eventually giving way for the victory of Grant and his Union.

## What for?

As a young marine lieutenant with zero experience in the real battlefield, one has no choice but to attempt to see and feel the reality through the eyes of the senior officers and learn the blunders of battle through the writings in newspapers and books. Soon, days will come where these new officers will take over the positions and personally encounter the adversaries. And, if proven that the Joker lives among the enemy, at least now, predicting that the adversary is unpredictable makes them less so. 

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# Rising to the Challenge:

## Essence of a True Sea Warrior

by: SSgt Ivann C Barela PN(M)

The then Inshore Boat Battalion of the Philippine Marine Corps was renamed as Marine Corps Assault Boat Battalion effective 21 June 2019 pursuant to General Orders 224 HPMC dated 05 July 2019. From 3 officers and 56 enlisted personnel, the battalion now has 10 officers and 308 EP of which majority were outsourced from the different marine rifle battalions. These individuals came from different walks of life with different traditions brought with them from their previous unit assignments. Despite the diversity, the unit sees it as an opportunity for a quantum leap towards the unit's mission accomplishment.

The battalion conducted training for the skills and capability enhancement of newly assigned personnel. They are trained and organized to respond with sound judgment at a moment's notice. This training embedded the Sea Warriors' spirit in them. They are the embodiment of courage and determination thereby effectively performing their duties in providing limited platforms and maneuvers as required by the Marine Operating Forces during operations conducted at sea.

Recent perfect examples of these Sea Warrior's unyielding commitment to a challenging call of duty:

- Involvement of 84th MC, MCABBn personnel during an encounter between members of MBLT-1 and the Abu Sayaf Group (ASG) members off the seawaters Simusa Island, Banguingui, Sulu. Personnel led by SSgt Roderick R Drapiza 850549 PN(M) were instrumental in the rescue of two (2) Indonesian kidnap victims, neutralization of four (4) ASG members including ASG sub-leader Najir Arik and recovery of assorted FAs, ammunition, and magazines.


- Interception of a motorized banca during the conduct of seaborne patrol at Simusa Island, Banguingui, Sulu by 81st MC, MCABBn personnel led by CPT JUN ELVIN G COSTAN O-15910 PN(M) which resulted to the seizure of 37 sacks of ammonium nitrate after these personnel conducted Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) on the said banca.

- 82nd MC, MCABBn personnel led Sgt Edison C Misleng 850576 PN(M) and other Naval Task Group Sulu Command Group carried out a seaborne operation during

the conduct of Amphibious Operation/Focused Military Operation (FMO) at Minis Island, Patikul that resulted to the neutralization of four (4) ASG members and recovery of numerous war materials.

- Involvement of 81st MC, MCABBn personnel led by CPT ROY G GASPAR O-15922 PN(M) at Sitio Logon, Brgy Limaong, Zamboanga City. Armed with utmost bravery and courage, IBBn elements courageously steered the high seas of East Coast of Zamboanga at night towards the designated Beach Landing Site (BLS) wherein possible enemy attacks during disembarkation of the operating troops might occur. With the swift and synchronized movement towards the BLS, the raid operation was successfully conducted that led to the neutralization of @ Abu Nibras and recovery of assorted FAs, ammunition and other war materials with high intelligence value.

- Involvement of 83rd MC, MCABBn personnel led by TSgt Elson C Cuyacot 802146 PN(M) during the conduct of Focused Military Operation (FMO) of Naval Task Group Sulu/Philippine Marine Ready Force in Brgy Libog Kabaw, Panglima Estino, Sulu and Brgy Timpook, Patikul, Sulu that resulted to the neutralization of three (3) ASG members and recovery of war material. The twelve MCABBn personnel involved during the operation actively and strictly implemented the tasks assigned to them by providing a seaborne operation to support operating elements.

The contributions resulting in the different accomplishments of MCABBn and the Philippine Marine Corps as a whole is a testament of the Marine Corps Operating Concept defining how the Marines should operate. Imagine the scale of accomplishments the Marine Operating Forces in the conduct of Seaborne Warfighting in the ambit of its role as ground combat instrument of naval power, and a major capability to the armed forces if every MOF has ample resources of water assets manned by skilled Marines. After all, the essence of being a true Sea Warrior comes in the form of victory over the given challenge at sea. 




# The Special Few, the Proud

BY: 2LT GLYN ELINOR B MARAPAO PN(M)

**“Send in the Marines!”** - An order that is heard when times get tough and all else failed. The order implying the trust the higher command has for the Marines in dealing with risky and seemingly impossible situations. The trust implying the success of each mission, and the success implying the tough training and critical thinking skills of each Marine Soldier.

This may explain and prove the Corps' slogan, 'the few the proud'. From the most recent Philippine Military Academy's graduate alone, only 4% (11 out of 261) chose to join the Marine Corps. This has been the norm not just in the academy but as well as in the Naval Officer Candidate Course. Nevertheless, as observed from the previous classes too, the top-performing students, in physical or academic matters, comprises this small percentage; foreign exchange academy students are beginning to join the Marines as well. Hence, one cannot help to wonder why.

The nature of the Corps has always been the same. Joining it has always been a voluntary act and conducting missions has always been along Basilan, Sulu, or Tawitawi. This means that these young officers knew the Marines but still chose this career. From varying reasons, like nationalism, adoration, desire to prove himself or wanting to be different, surely, one cannot simply generalize their motives. *Doing so is like locating where each drop of water in the ocean have come from.*

However, one thing is for sure, and it all goes back to the saying often heard and read, let us not ask not what the Marine Corps can give these 'decorated' students, rather, ask what these 'decorated' students can give to the Corps. *Besides, no matter where each drop came from, be it from rivers, pond or canal, clean or dirty, all traveled far and wide to comprise the ocean we all love to swim in or just plain view.* 





# SOMETHING TO PONDER IN THE JOURNEY TOWARDS SUCCESS

BY: MAJ ISIDRO JOIE U BALISTOY CHS

You and I love to see people succeed in their life. And so does our God, the Creator. As the artist treasures his painting and the master craftsman the quality of the craft he created, so our Creator cherishes the dreams, goals, and the happiness you and I are to enjoy. He gave us a guide and manual to make our lives more productive and triumphant in all our endeavors – The BIBLE. The Bible explains our life's purpose, how it works, what to avoid, and what to expect in the future. Jesus Christ, the greatest symbol of God's love, provides us with the wisdom of living for life to attain its profound meaning. Here are some of His examples for us to emulate:

Firstly, Jesus believed in His product. Jesus has the greatest product on earth - salvation. He offered the human race an opportunity to have a relationship with God. Jesus knew his purpose and mission. In the same way, no one will ever succeed or make a difference in any profession unless one truly believes in the purpose of what he is doing. For example, a Marine has to study his weapons, the laws, and culture of the community he dwells in, his rights and the rights of the populace as well the mindset of the enemy. If he takes these for granted, he becomes a dead man walking in the field. His life is on the line. One could not expect to succeed unless that person is thoroughly knowledgeable about his/her product.

Secondly, Jesus took the time to plan. Champions and winners have one thing in common – they plan. Even ants think ahead. Planning is the starting point for any dream or goal to be realized. What is a plan? A plan is a written list of arranged actions necessary to achieve the desired goal. Yet, nowadays, people have become impervious in taking

steps to prepare for their goals. Some believe that it is just a waste of time. They are so busy "mopping up the water" that they have forgotten to take the time "to turn off the faucet."

Where do you want to be in your military career ten years from now? Jesus showed us that the secret of one's future is hidden in one's daily routine. Our future starts with what we have on hand today. Everyone has received something from God. Jesus taught that giving is one of the ways to multiply what He has given you. What are your own greatest gifts? What is the center of your expertise? Whatever your gifts are, that is what God will use to bless others.

As you plan for your desired effects, consider which specific steps are needed to reach the goal. What obstacles do you foresee? How will you overcome them? Jesus set specific goals. Decide what you really want. Jesus knew that every great achievement requires one step forward. Anything big starts from something small. A six-foot man also began as an embryo. Be willing to begin small. Start with whatever you have. Do not be like the man in the Scripture who had been given talent but refuses to use it. Everything you possess is a starting point.

In planning, decisions are crucial. Jesus teaches us how he made decisions that created the desired future instead of the desired present. If you smoke two packs of cigarettes daily, what can you expect to happen? You will make a lot of decisions today. Some of them will give you pleasure today but misery tomorrow. Make decisions that will create a desirable future. Jesus did the same. Be like Him. PMG

## MARINE CORPS

**M**ilitary service for our maritime nation that is characterized by being amphibious  
**A**proud organization that will never shear the umbilical cord with the Navy  
**R**epresentatives of the best in soldiery characterize its gallant ranks  
**I**ntricacies on its operating concept the AFP must internalize to maximize its lethality  
**N**ever again is their battle cry when you talk about destabilization or any form of uprising  
**E**xemplary service and discipline are not bywords but are precepts that every Marine embody  
**C**ooperation and not competition is intrinsic to them in dealing with other branches of service  
**O**rganizational growth and maturity have been part of the Corps' roadmap  
**R**esponsibility and accountability to God, country and people flow in the veins of every Marine  
**P**ious to the Marine Ethos of Karangalan, Katungkulan, and Kabayanihan they shall always be  
**S**ervice that transcends beyond expectation, forever shall be the Force of Choice.

## MARINES

**M**en and women who volunteered to serve our maritime nation  
**A**re known to be amphibious warriors that have been tested through time  
**R**esponsibility to honor and serve the flag is what we live for  
**I**nnate to their quality is the unparalleled strive for excellence  
**N**ever will these representatives of the best in soldiery succumb to mediocrity  
**E**very individual Marine's resolve and grit will never be deterred by any threat  
**S**ervice that has been strengthened by the sacrifices of its forebears.

## WARRIORS

**W**hen the going gets tough, the Marines are the only option for mission accomplishment  
**A**ny threat to the security of our motherland will be met by these noble warriors  
**R**etrograde is not in their vocabulary, decimating the adversary they shall  
**R**enegades they will never be, loyalty to the constitution is paramount at any given day  
**I**nculcated in the hearts and minds of the Marines that no one will be left behind in any battle  
**O**ppositions will fall on their tracks; defeat will always be met by the enemy  
**R**eal victorious these men and women shall always emerge, for they were meant to be just that  
**S**acrificing even their precious lives for God, the Corps, and the motherland.

BY: BRAVEHEART '94

An acrostic is a poem or other form of writing in which the first letter or syllable/word of each line spells out a particular word, message or the alphabet. The word comes from the French word *acrostiche* or the post-classical Latin word *acrostichis*. As a form of constrained writing, an acrostic can be used as a mnemonic device to aid memory retrieval.







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**Reed Ahlert** Go on Marine Corps. Go along with the continued Philippine nation building, for its fast progress and development in various aspects. Kudos for the best Marines!  
Like Reply Message 1w Edited

**Chloe Mendoza** Thank you for all you do for our country and our freedom. Appreciate all you provide to us and your unselfish efforts for all of us to live a great life. Big thanks to the men and women of the Philippine Marine Corps  
Like Reply Message 1m

**Tina Ohlshipp** Thank you so much for your sacrifice and service. Military members and their families have had to sacrifice so much. I want to offer my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all you do for our country. To God be the glory. Thank you.  
Like Reply Message 18w

**Kristeoff Reyes** Snappy salute to the men and women of the Philippine Marine Corps because of your sacrifices that we are able to enjoy our freedoms. So with a great degree of sincerity and humility, I say simply, "thank you" for all you've done and continue to do for me, my family, my friends and our country. Long live Philippine Marine Corps!!  
Like Reply Message 1m

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- Unmarried and with no child to support
- Graduate of 4-year baccalaureate degree (preferably technical courses)
- At least 5'2 for female and 5'4 for male

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to serve the country as a Marine Officer
- Opportunity to study abroad with good compensation and allowances
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- Opportunity to travel abroad and interact with foreign navies
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- Completed the K-12 or at least 72 units in college (preferably technical courses) or TESDA NCII
- At least 5'4 feet (male only)

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- Opportunity to study abroad with good compensation and allowances
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