



CITEMAR 6

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NOVEMBER 2020 BIRTHDAY ISSUE



PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

at the forefront of change, addressing peace and pandemic situations towards seven decades of unwavering dedication, and exemplary service to the nation

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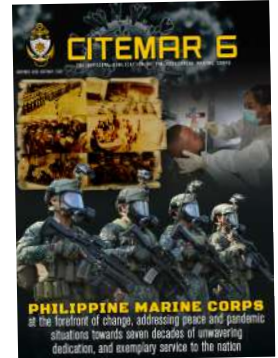
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This edition of CITEMAR 6 recognizes the efforts of the Philippine Marine Corps in peace and pandemic situations. It is a fitting tribute in celebration of the Corps' 70th birthday. As you will glean from the pages of this publication, the Marines continue doing what they do best - serving the people and securing the nation regardless of situation, risk, and distance. We do so with high level of dedication and readiness at all times.



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Message from the

PRESIDENT

of the Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) as it marks its 70th Anniversary.

Over the years, the brave men and women of the PMC have gone above and beyond the call of duty in fulfilling their mandate in the service of our fellow Filipinos. I thus recognize the significant contribution of our competent marine corps in maintaining peace and order and preserving national security against lawless elements.

May you always exemplify courage and loyalty as you continue your invaluable and meritorious service to our country. Be assured of this administration's strong commitment to boost the morale, efficiency and responsiveness of our uniformed personnel through modernization programs and social benefits for you and your families.

As we overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, I urge you to uphold the time-honored values of honor, gallantry and valor as you continue to contribute to our shared task of nation-building.

Congratulations and I wish you all the best!

RODRIGO R DUTERTE
President of the Republic of the Philippines



Message from the

SECRETARY

of National Defense


On behalf of our One Defense Team, let me greet the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) on its 70th Birthday this November.

With the ongoing public health situation due to COVID-19, this year has been a very challenging one for all of us. It has affected how we live, and how we go about our operations. Nevertheless, we remain steadfast in our commitment to protect and serve the Filipino people.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the PMC for your tireless efforts and contributions in defending our sovereignty, securing our communities, and helping in the government's efforts to mitigate the impacts of pandemic.

The PMC is on the forefront of change. Thus, I enjoy the Corps to adapt and learn from all the challenges we currently face, and grow stronger together.

Congratulations and happy birthday! *Mabuhay ang Philippine Marine Corps!*



DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Secretary of National Defense



Message from the

CHIEF OF STAFF

Armed Forces of the Philippines

For the past seven decades of its proud existence, the Philippine Marine Corps continues to selflessly serve our nation and the Filipino people with utmost devotion, loyalty, and perseverance. Time and again, you remain a service organization that is characterized by valor and fortitude as you transformed from a unit into a force that would always be **“The Few and the Proud.”**

As we Commemorate your 70th Anniversary, I commend the relentless effort for the continued success and mission accomplishment of the Corps. Let me emphasize the essential role you play in protecting our people and securing the integrity of our national territory by safeguarding critical and strategic infrastructures and islands. Your contributions through the conduct of different activities related to Civil Military Operations have sustained the high level of trust and confidence of the communities in your areas of operation that translated to stakeholders' trust, approval, and partnerships. Furthermore, you are instrumental in facilitating the delivery of basic needs and services, especially now, when our country and even the whole world is confronting an unseen threat with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, the Marine Corps has and will always be dedicated and committed to respond to the complex security challenges that we confront. Hence, may each proud marine continue to live up and core values of Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan as you strive and give your best, no matter the situation.

I am very optimistic of the future of the Marine Corps, eloquently stated in your theme, **“PMC at the forefront of change addressing peace and pandemic situations towards seven decades of unwavering dedication and exemplary service to the nation”**. The Filipino people expect nothing less from you to carry on their aspirations for a peaceful and progressive nation.

Once again, Congratulations and Happy Birthday to the Philippine Marine Corps! *Semper Fidelis!*



GILBERT I. GAPAY
General PA



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

In the celebration of your Platinum Jubilee, I wish to congratulate and convey my warmest greetings to the men and women of the Philippine Marine Corps.

In the long history of the PMC as the country's top elite force-in-readiness, I have personally witnessed the Marine Corps' discipline, combat effectiveness and efficiency, courage and dedication to our country. I take pride to many of your combat operational successes these past years. I also laud your great contribution to national development through disaster and relief operations and support to the government's COVID 19 response this year amidst the relatively high occupational risks and administrative constraints.

Your theme in this year's anniversary is very true and timely. PMC is indeed at the forefront of change. Our regional security environment has evolved to be more volatile and uncertain. The ways we fight, and the future of amphibious operations are also fast evolving. I acknowledge and fully support your commitment to improve the PMC's capabilities as a multi-capable, scalable amphibious force component of the country's maritime defense force. You are heading towards a distinctively new course, getting combat ready for amphibious maneuvers and shore-based air defense. I encourage you to review your existing doctrines and operational concepts to ensure that they remain adequate for the wars of the future, especially as we develop our capability for anti-access and area denial.

Again, let me express my heartfelt congratulations to MGEN NATHANIEL Y CASEM PN(M) and to every Marine who all have been instrumental in achieving the milestones that made what Philippine Marine Corps is today.



GIOVANNI CARLO J BACORDO
Vice Admiral PN



Message from the

COMMANDANT

Philippine Marine Corps

The Philippine Marine Corps is at the forefront in the fight against complex and amorphous threats that endanger our people. In the last few months, we have largely focused our efforts on protecting people against the COVID-19 pandemic and threats from insurgent groups. Our men and women have worked diligently and remain committed to serve round the clock as we know that our collective response efforts make a significant difference.

On the ground, we have done robust information sharing; fostered greater collaboration with the national government, local governments, civilian organizations, and private individuals; and equipped our Marines with the right tools and support to be able to perform excellently in their respective areas of operation. Marines, after all, are trained to fight through complexity and solve problems.

On a broader scale, the Corps puts premium on archipelagic defense and cooperates in preserving peace and security in the region. Efforts are being done to increase the Corps' readiness and strengthen it as an amphibious force.

It has been 70 years since the inception of the Philippine Marine Corps on November 07, 1950. Having gone this far, this organization, envisioned as an elite strike force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, has grown to be a stronger force able to effectively carry out its mission. Over the years, we remain true to our long-standing tradition and culture of excellence and our unequivocal emphasis on the Marine ethos.

The Corps presents you this edition of CITEMAR 6 that contains stories from various units and insightful narratives about our future trajectory. It reflects the work of our men and women who selflessly risk their lives and limbs in the service of the Filipino people.

Thank you to the contributors and to the production team of MCPAO for making this possible in time for our Marine birthday. May you find inspiration in our stories as we continue to live by our motto of "Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan".

To all Marines near and far, Happy 70th Birthday!



NATHANIEL Y. CASEM
Major General PN(M)



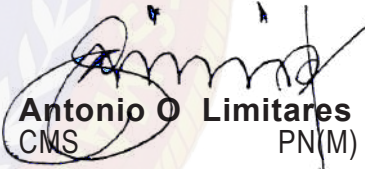
Message from the
**COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR**
Philippine Marine Corps

In the past months, we have seen how the Philippine Marine Corps focused its efforts on providing direct assistance to the people and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have extended our support in various forms and we continue to do so with strict health and safety protocols and risk mitigation measures.

At the same time, we remain relentless in our campaign to ensure peace and security in our areas of operation where we have gained laudable successes through focus military operations while broadening engagements with partners.

It is thus imperative that we remain strong and formidable to ensure the ongoing and future operational effectiveness of the Corps and to complete our missions with accuracy. I enjoin you to stay focused, healthy, and strong in this challenging period and to keep our high level of readiness intact.

Happy 70th birthday to the Philippine Marine Corps!



Antonio O Limitares
CMS PN(M)

COVID-19 - A New Challenge

By: 2LT DANIELLE JEAN D TORRES PN(M)

Few days before Christmas of 2019, the world was struck by an infectious disease caused by the Coronavirus. It started in Wuhan, China, and spread rapidly and became a global outbreak causing millions of cases worldwide. It affected individual respiratory systems, infected persons who exhibit the manifestation of fever, shortness of breathing, cough, and sore throat. There are also those asymptomatic individuals who do not show any symptoms of COVID-19, but is infected with the disease.

Like other countries, the Philippines is also severely affected by this disease. According to government data, there are now more than 300,000 COVID-19 cases in the country. Many people lost their jobs and livelihood since the implementation of Community Quarantine, and many business establishments were closed.

On the other hand, the Department of Health provided several protocols and measures to prevent the rapid spread of COVID-19. The DOH aims to flatten the curve of the infected cases so that the hospitals will have enough time to accommodate and prepare for the admission of newly infected patients. There are numerous protocols aimed at preventing the rapid spread of the virus, including handwashing, social distancing, and the wearing of face masks and face shields. When an individual experiences symptoms like fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing, it is

important to seek medical attention and avoid close contact with other people. In other countries, drug companies are racing against time to develop vaccines, and clinical trials and testing are ongoing to test their efficacy.

We are now in the state of a new normal. Many Filipinos suffered because of this crisis and we all know that the government is doing its best to sustain the need of the country and assist the people to overcome this current situation. Several programs are being done like monetary assistance and giving of relief goods in some areas to support the needs of all Filipinos. Life may be difficult at this time, but as long as we cooperate and do our part, we could overcome this pandemic.



MISSION FIRST

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”- Colossians 3:23

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. Not only are civilians greatly affected with work stoppage and increased mobility restrictions, but also the military changed its working and training conditions.

The Marine Security and Escort Group (MSEG) is among the units severely impacted by COVID-19. During the start of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), the MSEG deployed its personnel at the different Quarantine Assistance Stations (QAS) in the areas of Marikina City, Zapote, CAVITEX, Muntinlupa City, and FILINVEST. Until now, while the National Capital Region

(NCR) is in General Community Quarantine (GCQ) the unit constantly provides personnel at QAS areas. The unit also programmed the rotation of personnel deployed at QAS areas to limit the troops' exposure to the public. After the rotation, troops are submitted to the swab test at Enderum Mega Swabbing Center in McKinley, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, and subsequently quarantined for fourteen (14) days. The deployment in QAS areas, however, resulted in the depletion of the unit's strength as there had been rapid contamination of COVID-19 among the personnel of Headquarters Battalion.



The MSEG also faces other challenges, such as the return of ceremonial activities and the conduct of unit initiative training. Because of the decreased number of personnel, this unit made adjustments to continue conducting these activities deemed essential to the core competency of MSEG.

On August 03, 2020, the MSEG conducted Marksmanship Training on Caliber .45 Pistol. It aimed to improve the troops' knowledge and skills in handling Caliber .45. The graduates have now increased their accuracy and speed when firing their pistols. They are very thankful for such training since almost all of them have been issued Caliber .45. On August 10, 2020, a Modified PMC Martial Arts Kali Training Program CI 01 was conducted to train the troops on hand-to-hand combat and self-defense. These two training programs were successfully completed and the students who graduated are now equipped with essential skills needed when securing government vital installations. There are currently two (2) unit training being run – the

Modified PMC Martial Arts Kali Training Program CI 02 and Basic Computer Literacy and Personnel Administrative Training.

Health is also the priority of MSEG; hence, this unit programmed vaccination among its troops to help prevent influenza and typhoid fever and ensure high percentage of work performance.

The efforts of the unit in accomplishing its mission are steadfast and no pandemic can stop the conduct of its mandated tasks. Despite the decreased number of personnel, the MSEG continues to train its personnel to achieve greater operational effectiveness and higher competency. The threats of COVID-19 will not stop the unit in providing service to God, people, and the Philippine Marine Corps. With the help of our Almighty God, the MSEG remains strong and resolute in accomplishing its mission.

CPT NOEL ANTHONY M MANA-AN PN(M)
Commander, 93rd Marine Security Company, Marine Security Escort Group



KIND HEARTS

activated for Aeta community in Cagayan

By: 1LT JIOKKEE ANN K GAMMAD PN(M)

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak has greatly affected countries all over the world. In the Philippines, people are forced to go on community quarantines, most business establishments are closed, and access to basic daily needs are restricted. The distribution of relief goods by the Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 came as temporary means of support for affected families.

On top of the basic support provided by the local government, the MBLT-10 also extended efforts to reach families living in more distant locations, particularly to the Aeta community, which sparked inspiration to private individuals and organizations to contribute more relief packs. Donations such as sacks of rice, canned goods, sanitation products, and vitamins were transported and distributed to MBLT-10's Area of Operation (AO) which covered the Aeta



communities in Palau Island and Sitio Dumasag in Santa Ana, and Sitio Padungsol in Gattaran. Every Aeta family received a relief pack containing their basic needs.

The Aeta community expressed their utmost gratitude and appreciation toward the kind-hearted people who willingly shared their resources despite their own needs in this time of pandemic.

MBLT-11: TEAM MATATAG

in ACTION during COVID-19

Pandemic in Zamboanga City

By: 2LT SYLANIE C DE GUZMAN PN(M)

The Philippines reported its first case of COVID-19 on January 30, 2020 with a 38-year old female Chinese national after the outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019. On March 07, an alarming local transmission occurred in the country that instigated the COVID-19 Alert System to Code Red Sub-level 1. Unfortunately, the local transmission increased, which led to the implementation of community-level quarantine including in the city of Zamboanga City.

Marine Battalion Landing Team-11 (MBLT-11), presently deployed at So Malasugat, Brgy Sangali, Zamboanga City, is one of the PMC's independent battalions tasked to conduct development support operations to sustain peace, ensure security, and help maintain public order to foster the foundation for inclusive economic and human development in the east coast of Zamboanga City in support of the Joint Task Force Zamboanga (JTFZ) mission.

From the declaration of enhanced community quarantine in Zamboanga City on March 20, 2020



to present, MBLT-11 serves as one of the security components of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) against COVID-19. Team Matatag, through its initiative in creating "Command Bravo", a command group tasked to oversee the implementation of COVID-19 guidelines and relentlessly ensures that guidelines are properly observed in the battalion's area of operations.



Since the escalation of the pandemic, efforts doubled and varieties of operations were conducted to respond to the call. Team Matatag established Quarantine Control Points at the boundary of Brgy Licomo, Zamboanga City, and Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay Province, Sangali Fishing Port, Brgy Sangali, Zamboanga City, and Zamboanga City Port. Marine checkpoints were installed at Brgy Talon-Talon, Brgy Rio Hondo, Brgy Muti, Brgy Sangali, Brgy Taluksangay, and Brgy Mampang, all of Zamboanga City.



MBLT-11 also increased public outreach through the conduct of Loud Speaker Operations.



Team Matatag optimized the use of social media to monitor online news and social media sites regarding the effects of security operations in support of the ECQ.

The battalion also assisted City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) personnel in their house tagging of 82,669 households for the distribution of relief goods. Said security operations continued in 48 barangays during relief operations covering 84,312 households.



In compliance with the new law, **Bayanihan to Heal as One Act**, the national government implemented the Social Amelioration Program (SAP), a cash emergency subsidy given to 18 million Filipino families severely affected by the crisis. MBLT-11 provided security operations during the SAP survey and pay-out in the 48 barangays with 36,075 families as recipients in Zamboanga City. Rice distribution of the city government was also supported by the battalion by providing security operations.

Civil Disturbance Management (CDM) operations to contain possible rallies and demonstrations and maintain law order in Zamboanga City, was also executed through the utilization of the battalion's provisional platoon as Quick-Reaction Force (QRF).

On April 29, 2020, MBLT-11 provided security and support operation to cordon and secure the perimeter of Lantaka Hotel that served as PUI isolation facility of Zamboanga City and to thwart any possible hostile occurrence in the vicinity.

MBLT-11 extended its security operations to BJMP-9, Zamboanga City Police Office, and Zamboanga City government to secure the Zamboanga City Jail perimeter and impede any possible hostility. The support continued as Team Matatag aided in securing the perimeter of GC Hotel, a make-shift isolation facility in the city.

In support to the implementation of Executive Order No. BC 563-2020 guidelines, MBLT-11 ensured that individuals are safe in procuring their necessities.

As MBLT-11 gives immeasurable effort to conduct its Civil Military Operations in response to the pandemic, Team Matatag will never forget the reason why it exists. Alongside several security and support operations, the game of keen watch never lost its intensity.

Enforcing discipline to the noisiest part of Zamboanga City, the flea market has been one of the most difficult stones to turn, however, ***MBLT-11 proved that Marines do not only have the will to fight war but also to strictly implement quarantine protocols and make sure that every Zamboangueño is responsible to obey the rules.*** The discipline exhibited by the people yielded a positive effect on the community's strict compliance with the TFCOVID-19 guidelines.

At the start of the year, MBLT-11 intercepted a vehicle loaded with smuggled cigarettes at Muti Checkpoint, Brgy Muti, Zamboanga City. With an estimated value of Php 700,000.00 the cigarettes were turned-over to the Bureau of Customs for proper inventory and disposition.

The interception of vehicles loaded with smuggled goods and contrabands continued as checkpoint

operations were strengthened at the six established marine checkpoints within the battalion's area of operations. The battalion's intelligence section also intercepted watercraft loaded with tanbarks at Brgy Taluksangay, Zamboanga City, and successfully apprehended illegal drug couriers and users. Said section also apprehended individuals involved in violation of RA 7394 (Consumer Act of the Philippines), RA 11469 (Bayanihan to Heal as One Act), RA 9711 (FDA Act), and RA 7581 (Price Act) as amended by RA 10623. From January 01, 2020 to date, MBLT-11 has intercepted smuggled and illegal items with a total estimated amount of Php 32,904,697.00 from its anti-smuggling operations. Team Matatag also confiscated the illegal collection of fossilized giant clam shells that were later turned over to the Zamboanga City Police Office.

over of school supplies, books, medical supplements, rollator walkers, and the house to house distribution of relief goods, loaves of bread, hygiene kits, face masks, ice cream, toys, and farm-fresh vegetables. During the activity, Team Matatag and stakeholders involved strictly adhered to the health protocols implemented in the city. Loud Speaker Operation was also carried out during the stay on the island to update the populace of the current COVID-19 threat in Zamboanga City.



The battalion also successfully neutralized an identified Abu Sayyaf group member, IED maker, and drug dealer at sitio Pal-Palo in Brgy. Muti. This was done in coordination with law enforcement agencies, conduct of Inter-agency Law Enforcement Operation which led to the successful neutralization of the ASG members.



With a strong belief on the significant role of education and proper information dissemination in cultivating the hearts and young minds of the children in the community and shaping the community's right perspective on the ongoing pandemic, Lt. Col. Joel O. Atienza PN(M), the Commanding Officer of MBLT-11, initiated these programs to extend a helping hand to the people who are greatly affected by the pandemic.



Due to numerous successful conduct of checkpoint and security operations resulting in the interception of smuggled goods and apprehension of ASG supporter, Team Matatag received a reward from the City of Zamboanga.



The island of Sinunuk within Brgy Tumulutab, Zamboanga City was also visited by Team Matatag amidst the community quarantine. Team Matatag conducted an outreach program on the island through the formal turn-

Considering the distance between the sitio and the island where the activities were conducted, it is undeniable that help seldom finds its way to their households unless programs are specifically intended for the areas mentioned. Thus, like how the northern star guides navigators to find their way to the unknown, Lt. Col. Atienza PN(M) guided his officers, men, and women to find their way in upholding and living to the Marine Corps' motto of **Karangalan, Katungkulan, and Kabayanihan** as each extended a helping hand in the successful construction of the two-classroom building at Sta Fe Elementary School and the Outreach Program at Sinunuk Island.

When Lieutenant Senior Grade MANUEL A GOMEZ PN, Commanding Officer of the First Warrior of the Seas on November 07 1950 said that the Filipino Marines do not intend to bask on the glories earned by the Marines of other countries, it is an implicit challenge to any PMC unit to do its fair share in writing its history in the book of marine glories. Thus, it may still be early for the battalion's initiatives to be imprinted in the Marine Book of Glories, but the eagerness to provide genuine service to any task at hand regardless of the impending threat is a clear indication that MBLT-11 performs and will never get tired of performing adherence to its monicker: "**MATATAG**".



2LT SYLANIE C DE GUZMAN PN(M)
Acting Civil Military Operation Officer, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 11



Sitangkai-IATF responds to COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The 39th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team-9, in cooperation with Sitangkai Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) COVID-19, has initiated several steps and provided public advisory to ensure people's safety against COVID-19. The unit started its prevention against COVID-19 in its camp by establishing a disinfectant booth with a washing area to protect our personnel from infection, conducting weekly decontamination of marine detachments, and providing our personnel with protective gear and disinfectants during their tour of duties.

In the communities, the health and safety protocols set forth by the IATF are strictly implemented. However, information dissemination and awareness campaigns regarding COVID-19 was challenging given the distant location of communities. This unit, together with Sitangkai-IATF Chairman Hon Hji Tiblan C Ahaja, Municipal Mayor, conducted island-to-island visits and information campaigns to raise awareness about COVID-19. A seaborne patrol

loudspeaker campaign was launched, public advisory in local dialects was posted in tarpaulins in various areas, and relief goods were distributed in barangays. Series of inter-agency meetings were initiated to enlist the support of stakeholders like business sectors for price control of prime commodities, civilian vessel operators for banning passengers from Malaysia, barangay officials for activating their Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT), and religious leaders for canceling of religious gatherings.

The 39th Marine Company and other law enforcement agencies have joined together to enforce specific guidance for enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) including the implementation of curfew hours and the prohibition of social gatherings. With the employment of security forces all over the area of operation during this pandemic, the Marines will never quit and will continuously serve the people with utmost dedication. The collective efforts on the ground prove that no family is left behind in our battle against COVID-19.

Let us work as one and heal as one. Your Marines... Lumalaban Para sa Inyo.



CPT MARLON C LADRIDO PN(M)
Commanding Officer, 39th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 9

MBLT-9 spearheads COVID-19 prevention in Tawi-Tawi

The province of Tawi-Tawi has registered relatively few cases of COVID-19 due to the strict implementation of health and safety protocols in the area.

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-9 has been an active partner of the Tawi-Tawi Inter-Agency Task Force COVID-19 in spearheading precautionary measures, implementing quarantine restrictions, and supporting affected communities. Marine Special Operating troops and the Police Special Action Forces are working in tandem to support the local government of Tawi-Tawi by providing security assistance in distributing the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) aids in the province.

In support of the strict implementation of IATF Covid-19, the Marines and its Police counterparts have gone around the province to conduct checkpoints and reminding citizens to cooperate by complying to health and safety protocols, including wearing of face masks, maintaining physical distance, and following travel restrictions.

In this time of the pandemic, citizen cooperation is always crucial since it has cost many lives. The marines and other partners from the private sector are working tirelessly to ensure everyone's safety.



*SSgt Eddieson O Maguddayao PN(M)
Platoon Sergeant, Special Operation Platoon, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 9*

SMALL THINGS ADD UP TO GREAT EFFORTS IN MBLT-10's Area of Responsibility

The 30th Marine Company under Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 did not hold back even an inch against the greatest enemy that our country has ever faced, a kind of villain that is more ferocious and dangerous than any of these terrorist groups, bandits, and communists for it cannot be seen, it attacks anytime, it has no pattern at all, very unpredictable, and doesn't show any signs of weakness – the COVID-19 pandemic. As this enemy brings fear and chaos to the entire world, the Philippines, no doubt, is badly hit. In the Area of Operations (AO) of 30th Marine Company, particularly in the municipalities of Baggao and Peñablanca in the province of Cagayan, the spread of the virus has been contained. Salute to the collaborative efforts of the local governments, front liners from various agencies of the government, volunteers, policemen, and of course to all the small things that the personnel of 30MC did that it put together form part of the overall effort.

During the height of the pandemic, 30MC took a forward step to help its AO in its fight against COVID-19. The company augmented in Baggao Municipal Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), which conducted 24/7 checkpoints

and inspections to ensure that the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) was properly implemented and people going in and out of the municipality were strictly monitored. Checkpoints and inspections are still being conducted and the same level of safety measures are still being applied to ensure everyone's safety. The augmentation of the Marines fuelled community spirit because it provided them additional personnel who are reliable, credible, and dedicated to service. In effect, their range was stretched and the number of IATF Quarantine Assistance Stations increased making it easier to man and supervise all the exit and entry points of the municipality.

The company also conducted regular mobile patrols accompanied by loudspeakers, which constantly reminded all the locals to stay at home to prevent the spread of the disease. Amidst all the restrictions implemented, the company still managed to conduct information dissemination through the distribution of leaflets, which explained the nature of COVID-19 including the different preventive measures. The leaflets provided basic tips on how to keep their families from the disease such as observation of social



distancing, washing their hands often with soap, keeping themselves from touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with dirty hands, wearing of face masks, and observing healthy diet and lifestyle. Meanwhile, the social welfare personnel, escorted by the troops of 30MC, distributed the Social Amelioration Program Cash Assistance to the 48 barangays of Baggao.

In Peñablanca, the company conducted lateral coordination with the local government regarding the delivery of the basic needs and assistance to its people accompanied by an ocular visit to the quarantine stations. Likewise, Persons Under Monitoring (PUM) and Persons Under Investigation (PUI) of the said municipality were strictly monitored by the company. On June 19 - 25, 2020,

Task-Force Peñablanca, together with the security of 30MC, went on house-to-house to the 24 barangays of the municipality to deliver the second wave of relief packages and cash assistance to its people. Aside from the safety of the personnel involved in the said activity, 30MC made sure that all these basic needs and assistance were properly delivered. For the Marines, safety and security never stop even in the presence of pandemic.

Let this be a landmark lesson in life that for every challenge that the country faces, what matters most is the cooperation of everyone. Even the smallest things matter as long as these are for the common good and do not contribute more to the problem. For all the small things that 30MC did, it all counts.

Commanding Officer, 30th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 10

1LT ALDRIN V CUSTODIO PN(M)



SPP Distribution: An Inter-Agency Convergence

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Filipino citizens are fortunate to be recipients of the Social Amelioration Program and other social welfare and protection programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). These programs are being provided to help mitigate the effects on the health, economic, physical, social, and psychosocial well-being of the most vulnerable sectors in the community. The government also delivers the Social Pension Program (SPP) that benefits indigent senior citizens, in compliance with the provisions of RA 9262 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010. The SPP is a monthly stipend to augment the daily subsistence and medical needs of the senior citizens and distributed them on a semestral basis.

With the continuous distribution of cash assistance for the senior citizens under the SPP, representatives from the Office of Social Welfare and Development of Cotabato

City, in collaboration with other agencies of the government namely: Cotabato City Police Office, Cotabato City Public Safety Office, Cotabato Treasurer's Office, City Disaster Risk Reduction Management and 22nd Marine Company of Marine Battalion Landing-2, facilitated the distribution of monetary claims among senior citizens. The SPP distribution was held from June 17 to 25, 2020. In nine days, 37 barangays of Cotabato City were all catered and benefited a total of 9,666 senior citizens.

The Marines' efforts in this initiative demonstrate that Marines remain flexible and functional in times of a pandemic, health crisis, or any catastrophe. They extend their selfless service in responding to such circumstances along with the concerted efforts of other agencies of the government. Indeed, when there is an inter-agency convergence, their efforts result in broader support especially for the most vulnerable sectors of the community.



1LT RODOLFO M BLEN JR PN(M), Acting Commanding Officer,
22nd Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 2

PMC RESERVISTS step up in fight against COVID-19



The 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) is one of the three Reserve Marine Brigades and covers Luzon in its Area of Responsibility (AOR). Activated on January 01, 2010, it includes the 71st Marine Battalion (Reserve) in northern Luzon, the 72nd Marine Battalion (Reserve), 73rd Marine Battalion (Reserve), and the 74th Marine Battalion (Reserve), which are located in the National Capital Region (NCR) and activated on July 01, 2011.

Last March 2020 saw the worldwide onset of the Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent declaration of the Luzon-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in NCR. In response to calls from higher headquarters for the major services and their reserve commands to contain and counter the virus, reserve units such as the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) and its three Battalions in NCR, volunteered their personnel for deployment. In total, the 7th Marine Brigade submitted approximately 60 names of its reservist officers and EP as volunteers.

While awaiting orders for deployment, the 7th Marine Brigade undertook various civil-military operations (CMO) activities and relief operations, in coordination with the office MC7 of the Philippine Marine Corps, and NRC-NCR, which, in turn, cleared the same with Naval Task Group-National Capital Region (NTG-NCR). These activities were also undertaken in partnership with the Support our Troops Foundation with Maj. Gen. Alvin A. Parreño PN(M)(Ret), GMA-7 Kapuso Foundation, and other donors.

The 74th Marine Battalion (Reserve) is the third Battalion of the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) with the co-author, Lt. Col. Angelica DL. Andrada PN(M)(Res)) as Commanding Officer. The Battalion has the southern part of NCR as its AOR to include Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa Cities, and the Cavite and Laguna areas.

The 74th MRBN likewise volunteered their personnel for deployment in response to the JTF/NTG requirement.

The 74th MRBN was the first battalion of the brigade to respond to the COVID-19 crisis by taking the initiative and solicited help from civilian stakeholders for their initial CMO activities. 74th MRBN conducted the following CMO activities in coordination with Headquarters 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) and O/MC7 of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), Support our Troops Foundation, and some civilian stakeholders and charitable foundations:

- 07,09,14 and April 16, 2020. Provided a total of 1,150 relief packs and 300 sacks of rice to all the barangays in Las Piñas and a few barangays in Bacoor, Cavite;
- April 21, 2020. In partnership with GMA Kapuso Foundation, repacked and distributed food and relief packs to 680 families in Paliparan, Cavite. Said activity was covered and broadcasted over GMA 24 Oras newscast;
- May 05, 2020. Provided Face Masks to MCFDC personnel manning the Cavite flyover checkpoint;
- May 13, 2020. In partnership with GMA Kapuso Foundation, repacked and distributed food and relief packs for 600 families in Calauan, Laguna. Said activity was covered and aired over GMA 24 Oras newscast;

As a parallel effort, H7MBde provided 50 face shields to De La Salle Medical Center ER Department in Dasmariñas, Cavite last April 14, 2020.

From July 01-15, 2020, the 74th MRBN provided volunteers together with 73rd MRBN for deployment with NTG-NCR to support enforcement of the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) in Pasay City. From July 16-31, 2020, 74th MRBN again provided volunteers to NTG-NCR for deployment in Pasay City, and personnel to assist in the preparation of the book to document the involvement of reservists in operations with NTG-NCR.

The 72nd Marine Battalion (Reserve) is one of the three Battalions of the Brigade in NCR and has the northern part of NCR including Bulacan, KAMANAVA, Caloocan City, Novaliches, and Quezon City as its AOR. After volunteering

their personnel for deployment to support the enforcement of the ECQ, the 72nd MRBN undertook the following CMO activities in coordination with Headquarters, 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve), and O/MC7 of the Philippine Marine Corps and Support the Troops Foundation:

- April 17, 2020. Mobilized and provided 500 relief packs in partnership with Adamson University for affected barangays in Valenzuela City.
- April 23, 2020. Undertook a subsequent relief operation in partnership with Adamson University to mobilize and distribute 200 relief packs for affected families in Bulacan.

The second Battalion of the 7th Brigade in NCR is the 73rd Marine Battalion (Reserve) and has the central part of NCR as its AOR, which includes Taguig City, part of Manila, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pateros, Pasig, Marikina, and Pasay City.

In addition to volunteering their personnel for deployment in response to the requirement of higher headquarters, the 73rd MRBN also conducted CMO activities in coordination with the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) and O/MC7 of the Philippine Marine Corps:

- April 20-21, 2020, the 73rd MRBN mobilized and repacked 2,000 sacks of rice and food for affected communities in partnership with the Forbes Park Association and NARF-NCR (WESPHIL).

From June 16-30, 2020 and subsequently, July 01-15, 2020, 73rd MRBN provided volunteers for deployment with NTG-NCR to support enforcement of the GCQ at Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. The same volunteers from 73rd MRBN extended their deployment from July 16-31, 2020 in the same location. These deployments were undertaken at the request of the concerned LGUs.

At this time, the 7th Brigade continues to support efforts to counter the virus and provide relief to the population. Rest assured, the Philippine Marine Corps and the Philippine Navy can count on their Marines Reservists at the 7MBde (Res) in this fight against this unseen enemy called the COVID-19.



COL ROBERTO T FELICIANO PN(M)(MNSA)(RES)
Acting Commanding Officer, 7th Marine Brigade



LTCOL ANGELICA DL ANDRADA PN(M)(MNSA)(RES)
Commanding Officer, 74th Marine Battalion, 7th Marine Brigade

RISING FROM THE PANIC DURING THE PANDEMIC

By: CPT EDILBERTO V VILLAFRIA PN(M)

“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.” – Theodore Roosevelt

The world was surprised by the sudden attack of an unseen enemy, the CoronaVirus Disease (COVID-19). Despite the government’s collective efforts to prevent the spread of this virus, this unseen enemy slowly penetrated our defenses. To flatten the curve, the government commissioned the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), which included the Department of National Defense.

After the declaration of the community quarantine in NCR, the PMC prepared its personnel for IATF-directed deployments. The Marine Security Escort Group (MSEG) and Marine Battalion Landing Team 12 (MBLT-12) were placed under the Operational Control (OPCON) of the Naval Task Group National Capital Region (NTG-NCR) and were tasked to act as checkpoint security forces in the main roads of NCR. The primary objective of the deployment is to ensure that only those who are authorized by the IATF-MEID can enter and exit from the checkpoints.



Left Photo: PMC personnel setting their Checkpoint post in NCR; Right Photo: PMC Personnel while conducting checkpoint at CAVITEX (Cavite Expressway.)

Anticipating that the pandemic might prolong the closure of domestic and international means of transportation, the Corps became proactive in coordinating with all Naval Operation Forces (NOF) and Marine bases to serve as assembly areas for all stranded personnel who were waiting for the availability of transportation. The PMC also adapted the skeletal manning of offices. Its concept aims to have a reserve force from different respective offices/units ready and able to man and continue tasks if a member from an on-duty group gets infected. The Command, however, directed all heads of office to ensure all personnel are ready for possible deployment to reinforce the PMC’s frontliners in NCR.

The motivation to accomplish the task given and the high level of fighting spirit are what make the Marines different from the others. In any mission, whether in combat or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, the Marine Corps leadership ensures that every Marine is a high morale warrior.



Left Photo: Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Y. Casem PN(M), CPMC together with other AFP Senior Officers during the ocular visit to deployed PMC Personnel; Right Photo Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Y. Casem PN(M), CPMC impart some words to motivate Marine Personnel. (Photo copied from MBLT-12 Official Facebook Account)

The Command regularly conducted ocular visits to personnel deployed as frontliners to see and check their conditions. This aimed to show that the Corps is in full support of their operational requirements. The Corps also ensured the readiness of facilities inside the MBRB to serve as billeting places for stranded personnel as well as areas to serve as quarantine and isolation facilities for frontliner personnel. Furthermore, care packs containing necessary items such as food, hygiene kit, and vitamins were also distributed to personnel who tested positive as they underwent 14 days of quarantine.

As a military organization, it is mandatory to come up with a systematic approach to accomplish the mission. The Corps aimed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through proactive actions to reinforce personnel discipline in combating the pandemic. Despite the publication of numerous policies, such as the issuance of gate passes, no contact policy during office transactions, prohibition of public gatherings, as well regular monitoring of body temperature to guide every Marine in fighting against COVID-19, the invisible enemy still managed to crawl its way in.

On 26 April 2020 the first case of COVID-19 positive personnel had been recorded. This eventually led to the quick spread of the virus in the Corps. With this condition, the Command transitioned its defense strategy by implementing the zoning method to limit the person-to-person contact. Supported by a set of punishments to personnel who will intentionally violate the published guidelines, personnel from different units, offices, and barracks inside the HPMC were restricted to transact business with each other except for designated office messengers. Through the Corps’ undertakings, statistics showed that the Command’s efforts flattened the curve of positive PMC personnel cases, which peaked to 380 cases and went down to 45 cases by September 2020.



First Assignment: Fear of the Unknown

“You are on your own,” said Maj. Gen. Ronnie S. Evangelista, Superintendent, Philippine Military Academy when he delivered a message during our graduation. I clearly remember his foreboding words, which lingered in my head.

A year has passed, and the message echoed again when I was about to enter the portals of Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 Spartan Battalion as a newly reported second lieutenant. Being one of the chosen few from the Marine Officer Basic Course (MOBC-42) that have the chance to report to the different marine battalions, I felt the echo gradually turned into snarls and growls. There was fear of being “on my own.” As I reminisce and evaluate the events in my life, I realize that my fear of the unknown had its form.

First, I fear that I am not totally COVID-free. Second, I fear for what is in the frontlines. And lastly, I fear the changes.

I was a PUI or person under investigation for possible coronavirus infection. It started during our class when I had a runny nose, mild cough, and slight fever. I also had a travel history in one of the hotspots in Taguig City. Having all these elements considered as early symptoms of persons diagnosed with COVID-19, I became anxious. I was pulled out from the class and immediately brought to the Marine Base Gregorio Lim (MBGL) Dispensary. Right then, all their attention was on me. My vital signs were monitored three times a day. I was never allowed to go out of my room except in the mornings when I needed to get some sunshine. My class examinations were done remotely. In just a blink of an eye, for 14 days long, I was there in solitude inside the four walls of the dispensary. I was not ready to be quarantined that long. The medical dispensary personnel made sure I had no physical contact with the outside world during my quarantine. I may be asymptomatic, but I was not allowed to go out even when my fever and all other symptoms subsided. It wasn't easy, so I swear to be more mindful of my health.

I was a front liner. I was just 12-day old in our Battalion Command Post in Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown when the Naval Task Group (NTG) 83.0 of the Joint Task Force – National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) recalled the services of 212th Marine Company (212MC) in the frontlines. I say recalled because MBLT-12 was the first unit to respond when the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic hit NCR. Before deployment, the Commanding Officer, 212MC, conducted briefing about the health protocols that should be implemented strictly by all personnel. The 212MC, together with other NTG 83.0 elements, covered four areas of operation (AO): Filinvest Alabang, Susana Heights, Cavite, and Marikina City.

Tactical Command Post Marikina was my first deployment. TCP Marikina was composed of 6 Quarantine Assistance Stations (QAS), the largest AO among the TCPs. I was the Officer-in-Charge in one of the QAS and every single day as I visit my QAS in Brgy. Barangca, I could feel the difficulty of the troops dealing with the invisible enemy.

I fear for them. Aside from the duty of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the community, the front liners' personal health was also at risk since they were the most exposed. Being deployed in the frontline was no easy task. It was not just enduring the hot summer days standing in the middle of the road but also spending hours wearing the uncomfortable personal protective equipment (PPE). There were also times when rain poured heavily, followed by scorching heat, which made them vulnerable to colds and flu. The agony of being away from their families for several months was also one of their sacrifices. Despite all this, I saw their full dedication and commitment as Marines. We were overwhelmed by the support of the community and the people who warmly shared meals with short messages, PPEs, alcohols, and even vitamins that were delivered daily in our TCP. I salute the civilian, for appreciating our efforts.

The pandemic is still on-going. In just 20 days of the battalion's presence in Barangay Nalil, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the province.

The Spartan Battalion, being seasoned in responding to the pandemic in NCR, was already making plans and promptly implemented health protocols. Mass gatherings were suspended, activities outside the camp were postponed, travels outside camps were limited, wearing of face mask was implemented, loudspeaker operations were activated, and various areas were disinfected.

Lastly, I fear change. It is inevitable. Since the spread of COVID-19 as a global pandemic in March 2020, thousands of lives have been affected and the future seems

uncertain. We are now living in the “new normal” and things will never be the same again.

With everything that is happening, I always thought I am on my own, but the truth is I am not. I have feared the unknown, but now I choose not to because I am not alone. Together with the Marines from the Spartan Battalion and with the rest of the Philippine Marine Corps, I enjoy the Filipino people, to work together in eradicating this pandemic and heal as one.



*2LT SARRIELLE M CABARDO PN(M), 3rd Platoon Commander,
512nd Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 12*

OPERATIONS OTHER THAN WAR PERSPECTIVES FROM THE 12TH MARINE BATTALION

In March 2020 when the National Capital Region was initially placed on Enhanced Community Quarantine, the 12th Marine Battalion, which was fresh from the Field Training Exercises and awaiting orders for deployment to Sulu Islands, was tasked by the General Headquarters to be placed OPCON to the Joint Task Force NCR as the first AFP frontline unit to be deployed in the boundaries of the National Capital Region to secure the Southern and Eastern entry and exit points of the region to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 virus. Several challenges were encountered such as the lack of clarity in the concept of operations, logistical support, and rules of engagements.

Quarantine Assistance Stations were immediately established by 12MBn at CAVITEX, Zapote-Alabang Road, and Zapote floodway pass, Marikina, Marcos Highway, Suzanna Heights, and SLEX-Calamba Tollway. The 12MBn established temporary patrol bases and immediately conducted quarantine checkpoints. These locations were critical to control the general public and transportation coming in and out of the Eastern and Southern Borders

of the National Capital Region.

Despite the myriads of challenges that the unprecedented nature of the pandemic brought upon the execution of the mission, the 12th Marine Battalion gave its best efforts to be able to surmount the numerous travails encountered to accomplish its mission in supporting the AFP's efforts against COVID-19. The operation tested the readiness of the battalion to be deployed on short notice sustaining its forces all over the National Capital Region. It was a defining operational readiness barometer for the Spartan Battalion prior to its deployment to the operational area.

While the conduct of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Operations is not new to the Philippine Marine Corps, this pandemic involving an unseen enemy necessitated for new and immediate bio-hazard protocols to be formulated and executed to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 to the members of 12MBn. The COVID-19 pandemic response task is unprecedented in the conduct of HADR operations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines since there

are no operating guidelines, checklists, best practices, and lessons learned that can be cascaded to the 12MBn. Individual health conditions became the paramount concern of the unit. The continuous day and night exposure at Quarantine Station Checkpoints compounded by the erratic weather conditions affected the well-being of frontline troops and made them vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. While the unit was not trained for bio-hazard operations, the battalion nevertheless did a systematic rapid response planning process to ensure the proper execution of the given mission.

The logistical requirements, such as PPEs, alcohol, thermal scanners and food supplies were provided for by the offices of foreign diplomats, LGUs, local food companies, politicians, private individuals, and other stakeholders through inter-agency coordination.

The stakeholder engagements of 12MBn also paved the way for the construction of the first ever easy to construct and affordable Emergency Quarantine Facility (EQF) for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.



No less than the Chief of Staff of the Philippines took note of the project and immediately directed the Chief Engineer, AFP to cascade the construction of similar facilities AFP-wide, including LGUs, all over the Philippines. The inauguration of the EQF at the Naval Combat Engineer Brigade Compound was covered by both local and foreign press.

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response is an integral part of the Marine Corps Operating Concept and as such, the higher headquarters must consider formulating strategies, develop sets of skill to ensure that PMC frontliner and responders are capable in operating in biohazard environment. In view of the aforementioned operating concepts, gaps must be identified to ensure the procurement of mission essential equipment to ensure the safety of personnel. Likewise, it is high time for the PMC to level up its HADR readiness by activating the Marine Corps CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives) Unit.

GAP ANALYSIS. The analysis was based on the actual operations conducted by 12MBn, the purpose of which is to examine and identify best practices, techniques, and lessons learned in the operational tempo of the unit. Moreover, the daily operations also exposed the gaps that emerged during the enforcement of GCQ. Assessing these inadequacies will give the Philippine Marine Corps relevant information for future planning as an integral part of the Marine Corps Operating Concept.

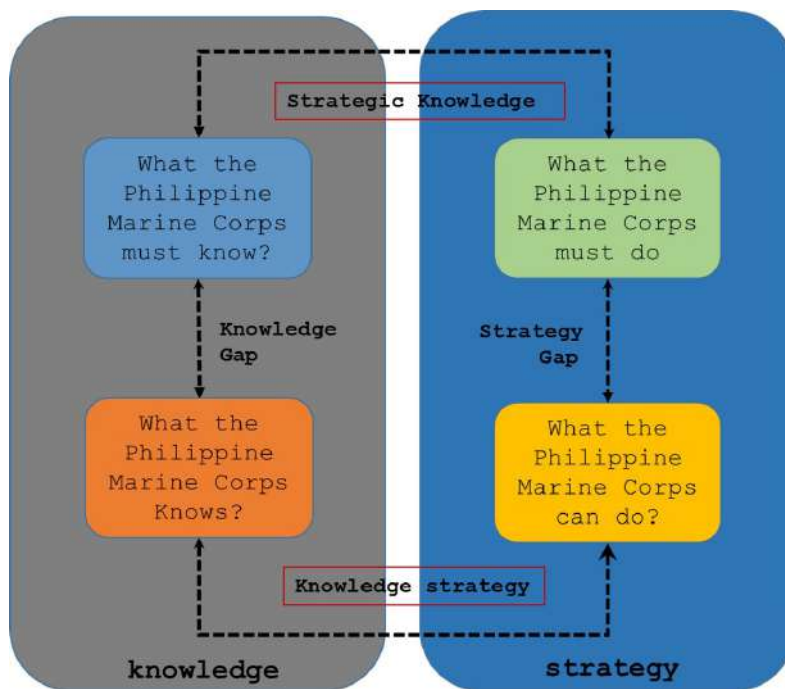


Figure 1: PMC Gap Analysis on Natural and Human-Induced Disasters: Global Pandemic in the New Normal.

In the course of the task execution for the mission, some of the best practices were identified i.e., optimum utilization of social media, daily action review and information dissemination, enhanced inter-agency collaboration and stakeholders engagements.

On the other hand, the challenges encountered during this pandemic response by 12MBn highlighted the lessons that must be learned, not just for the battalion but for the PMC as well. Noteworthy to mention are the following: Preparedness for future natural and human-induced disasters of global magnitude; Preparations

commensurate to the magnitude of the pandemic; Whole-of-ASEAN Region Approach; and Vulnerabilities in AFP HADR Operations relating to a global pandemic.

As the pandemic of COVID 19 persists in the present time, the role of the AFP in the Inter-Agency Task Force continues. The PMC is always at hand to lend its support in whatever capacity it can most especially in operational security aspect of the mission – a credible and steadfast frontliner in this battlefield with an unseen enemy.



LTCOL HENRY R ESPINOSA PN(M)
Commanding Officer, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 12

UNPRECEDENTED SOLUTION FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME

By: MAJ JOSE SIXTO G DANTES III PN(M)(RES)

We are living in an unprecedented time that calls for unprecedented solutions.

Year 2020 started with the Taal Volcano awakening from its 43-year slumber. The eruption caused massive damages to nearby provinces and communities while affecting many parts of the country because of the ash fall. But we saw how the Filipinos' Bayanihan spirit or sense of community, volunteerism, and generosity brought aid and hope to our kababayans who needed them the most. The Philippine Navy and the Philippine Marines were at the frontline of responding to the disaster. The military reached out to survivors by conducting rescue operations in parallel with the provision of relief goods. It also worked hand in hand with organizations such as the YesPinoy Foundation (YPF), among other volunteer groups, to hasten the delivery of much needed goods and services.

(FBI) and of the Marine Affiliated Reserve Combat Service Support Battalion or MARCSSBN with Lt. Col. Sonny K. Wang (Res) as the commanding officer.



However, as displaced individuals and families scramble to build back their lives, the COVID-19 pandemic seeped through causing further pressure on our resources and health system. The battle with this invisible enemy has already resulted in more than 330,000 reported cases and 6,000 deaths in the country. It has also impacted our way of life, our livelihood, and even the country's economy.

Despite the crisis and the intensified restrictions, we nevertheless witness the indomitable commitment of our frontliners. Our healthcare workers, men in uniform, the media, civilian volunteers, and other essential workers such as our delivery service men, among others, stepped up to the plate to avert the sprawl of the virus while ensuring that the flow of necessities remain unhampered.

These are just some of the challenges that our country is facing today. These prevailing issues actually have the capacity to misalign us from our core and derail us on the way to our common destination as a nation. Fortunately, they too present an opportunity for us to revisit our beliefs, values, and principles. Even though unexpected, they still serve as an invitation for us to look within so that we can reassess our priorities and direction in life as an individual and as a society.

Contemplating further, as a reservist of the Philippine Marine Corps, my role during this difficult time goes beyond what is stated in the Republic Act No. 7077. We are not only supporting the Armed Forces of the Philippines and providing assistance during disaster relief and rescue, among other equally important responsibilities, but we are enablers of dreams. We help our family, friends, and others



Since my enlistment as far back as 2006 and YPF's establishment in 2009, we have been partnering with the military in conducting disaster preparedness and relief programs as part of the Frontliners Brotherhood Inc.

pursue their aspirations in a secure and safe environment. We are beacons of hope.



Using their skills and experience on motorcycle riding, they courageously took their chance in the delivery service industry by diligently participating in the intensive riders' training program organized by YPF with A1 Driving School and DingDong PH, an online marketplace and logistics platform.

Now, all of them are actively deployed as partner riders of DingDong PH and are helping food entrepreneurs pivot their businesses and serving our community with pride and dignity. These delivery service professionals, just like our dedicated soldiers and the rest of our tireless workers and volunteers, put on their strongest hearts and committed themselves to be heroes in their own ways. They have chosen to be the best versions of themselves and decided to help uplift the lives of their fellow countrymen despite the difficulty and uncertainty.

They are living testimonies that surpassing our circumstance today requires our willingness to help ourselves and be of help to others. That the key to surviving and thriving from this extraordinary time is by strengthening our sense of community. That the force that can propel us to immediately bounce back and bounce better is by reminding ourselves that we are all integral part of nation building.

But, as we all know, our capacity to be of service is not dictated by the uniform we wear nor the accolades that we receive. We can be of help by using our respective knowledge, skills, and resources. We can make a difference by performing our respective duties with passion and utmost care and attention. We can be agents of change by setting a good example to our fellow Filipinos.

Take for instance the inspiring stories of the displaced entertainment workers whom we have the opportunity of working with during these trying times. Losing their job could have meant the end of their hopes and dreams for themselves and their family but they have decided to stand up and soldier on.



Our frontliners and modern-day heroes are a reminder of the significance of this quote from leadership author Chris Lowney, "Heroism lies in the nobility of committing to a way of life that focuses on goals that are greater than oneself."

Then, maybe, just maybe, that unprecedented collective compassion, sympathy, and generosity – an unprecedented celebration of heroism and humanity – will fortify our country's solution to this unprecedented situation.

MBLT-10 BRINGS HOPE, SECURITY, AND INSPIRATION ON FUGA ISLAND

By: Marine Battalion Landing Team-10

Fuga Island in the Municipality of Aparri, Cagayan is your typical remote island barangay with limited resources and access to basic services. The people are mired in poverty and rely mostly on farming and fishing. Though most people are poor, there are no beneficiaries of the national government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). With no electricity, the residents use generators, solar panels, gas lamps, or candles. They have limited access to government services as the nearest municipality, Claveria, is a 3-hour ride by motorized banca. However, unlike other islands, Fuga Island is no ordinary as it is mostly privately-owned by Fuga Island Holdings, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA). In May 2019, Fuga Island Holdings, through its affiliate, entered into a strategic cooperation agreement with a China-based company that plans to develop the area into a "smart city" with \$2 billion worth of investments for economic and tourism hubs. Because of private ownership, any construction and improvement of facilities are prohibited. The local government of Aparri is unable to build infrastructures such as clinics, schools, and other facilities. Security personnel from the private owner man the perimeter and monitor the people's ingress and egress.

Comprising of 2,015 inhabitants, this 10,000-hectare island is a remote part of the Babuyan Group of Islands. Its northernmost location makes it highly strategic for national security as it is on a multi-billion trade route along the Strait of Luzon, lies on the cusp of the West Philippine Sea and Pacific Ocean, and borders near Taiwan.

Amid rising concerns of possible heightened Chinese presence in the area, the Philippine Navy, on November 14, 2019, entered into an agreement with CEZA to build a naval outpost on the island. On August 06, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte ordered CEZA to allocate 20 hectares of the island for use as a Naval base.



Naval Forces Northern Luzon and MBLT-10 led the flag-raising ceremony with local officials on Fuga Island on 08 August 2020.

On August 08, 2020, a symbolic flag-raising ceremony was held in the presence of Naval Forces Northern Luzon (NFNL) Deputy Commander for Marine Operations Col. Simplitius G. Adec PN(M) (MNSA) and Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 Commander Lt. Col. Rowan L. Rimas PN(M) (GSC).

Realizing the need to closely reach out to the people, MBLT-10, in partnership with NFNL, the local government of Aparri, provincial government of Cagayan, volunteers, media, and organizations including Go Share Foundation, spearheaded an "All-in-One Bayanihan" activity on Fuga Island on 10-13 September 2020. It aimed to bring basic services closer to the people and to assess security and defense conditions in the vicinity. Lt. Col. Rimas said, "Part of our mandate is to secure the littorals and island municipalities. The guidance of higher headquarters is to establish military foothold on this island."

With these marching orders, a whole-of-government approach was held in Bayanihan spirit. The Marines ushered hope for a better quality of life by bringing people from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to facilitate the validation of the 4Ps beneficiaries and distribution of funds under the social amelioration program. The Marines brought local government officials to administer social pensions to the elderly. Absent medical facilities on the island, the Marines also provided much needed medical and dental services that the people rarely have access to. A computer set was given to a primary school to enable the pupils to learn about computer technology. Volunteer doctors, media personalities, and the Marines also became instant godparents to six newly baptized children. This was a noble gesture and will definitely serve as a source of inspiration to these young kids as they grow up. The activity also comprised of educational programs for children, dialogues with various sectors, renovation of school facilities, and distribution of school supplies, relief goods, water filtration sets, and water containers. The local government of Aparri also conducted voters' registration and census. The presence of media added significance because they were able to capture the sad reality on the ground, generate more public awareness of the people's condition, and ramp up support. The people welcomed these developments and were grateful for the overwhelming assistance from the Marines, the local governments, and private sector.

A Marine detachment has been set up by MBLT-10 on the island. This serves as the military's forward security and monitoring unit while the Armed Forces of the Philippines headquarters is completing a conceptual plan of appropriate defense facilities that will include a sheltered pier, a naval station, and littoral monitoring detachment.



The All-in-One Bayanihan activity, spearheaded by MBLT-10 on Fuga Island on 10-13 September 2020, was successfully conducted in partnership with NFNL, local officials of the municipality of Aparri and provincial government of Cagayan, DSWD, volunteer medical practitioners, media, and organizations including Go Share Foundation.

The Marines is fully committed to securing and asserting Philippine sovereignty on Fuga Island. The “All-in-One Bayanihan” activity may have been an initial step in strengthening military presence, but the Marines will

certainly keep a close watch, further intensify its foothold on the island, and continue to bring hope, security, and inspiration for the people.

CSP TEAM MAKES A MARK ON Paly ISLAND



Paly Island is a remote barangay in Taytay, Palawan known for its fishing community. In October 2019, the Marines’ Community Support Program (CSP) team was deployed on the island to reinforce the government’s effort to reach out to the people and help bring development in the area. Public consultation revealed that one of the primary issues is illegal fishing, specifically the use of compressors in boats, cyanide and dynamite fishing. To address this, the Palawan Development Council (PCSD) released a provincial ordinance which declared the closed season for the culture of live fish. Because this response restricted people’s access to livelihood, the local government immediately sought out alternative livelihood programs and conducted dialogues with affected stakeholders including fishermen and traders.

The vulnerability of the people, however, has been exploited by left-leaning communist organizations that roused the people’s anger against the government and instilled in them their deceptive teachings. The CSP team is aware of these organizations’ activities that is why it is working closely with barangay officials to counter their narrative and bring the government closer to the people. The people’s feedback has been positive especially with the demonstrated support of other government agencies.

*2LT DENNIS DWIGHT V BERMUDEZ PN(M)
2nd Platoon Commander, 23rd Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 3*





Gabay Alalay Cascading Forum garners support in Northern Palawan

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 conducted “Gabay Alalay Cascading Forum” headed by the Municipal Local Government Operation Officer (MLGOO), together with the Peace, Law Enforcement and Development Support (PLEDS) Cluster of each Municipal Task Force (MTF) ELCAC within the Northern Palawan pursuant to Executive Order Number 70, Series 2018 institutionalizing the whole of nation approach in ending local community armed conflict.

The said forum is a series of lectures, information drive, and mentoring session to local officials particularly to the Barangay Chairpersons, SK Chairpersons, Indigenous Peoples (IP) Leaders, and other community leaders of each municipality in the Northern Palawan that aims to support the cascading and sustainment of EO 70 and its attendant inter-agency convergence mechanism to the Municipal Task Force (MTF) ELCAC in each municipality. Although the former Kilusang Larangang Gerilya (KLG)- North was declared by higher headquarters as “dismantled” and its previous area of affectation as “cleared” by the end of 2019, said terrorist group’s remnant force, now unified under Kilusang Larangang Gerilya (KLG)-Palawan, continuously aims to recover their traditional mass bases and support networks within Northern Palawan. In order to stop this, the said forum helped each local official to understand deeply their role as leaders and protector of their area and provided a venue where local leaders were able to sign the Manifesto of Support for Executive Order Number 70 Series 2018 and Condemnation of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) and manifested their declaration of persona non grata against the CTG within their area of responsibility.



The following municipalities conducted their respective Gabay Alalay Cascading Forum:

- Roxas – June 16
- San Vicente – July 6, 10, and 17
- Taytay – July 22
- El Nido – July 24
- Dumarán – July 27-28
- Araceli – July 29

All fora had the overwhelming support of municipal mayors, MLGOOs, barangay officials, SK chairpersons, IP leaders, and community leaders who eagerly listened to the lectures and raised questions regarding the implementation of EO 70. The participants were exhorted to guide their youths and steer them away from the deceptive propaganda of CTGs. Each activity concluded with the participants declaring CTGs as persona non grata and condemning their wrongdoings.

As a whole, the Gabay Alalay Cascading Forum is just one of the strengthened campaigns against the CTGs in Northern Palawan. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and continuous attacks of the CTG in different parts of Palawan, this unit, together with the Northern Palawan Peace, Law Enforcement and Development Support (PLEDS) Cluster, will continue its mandated task to maintain peace and order in the Joint Area of Operation.



2LT MARIA CRISTINA M MOJECA PN(M)
1ST Platoon Commander, 23rd Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 3



Northern Palawan gears up anti-insurgency efforts

The inter-agency Peace Law Enforcement and Development Support (PLEDS) Cluster of the Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (PTF ELCAC) introduced and cascaded its implementation plan in northern Palawan to unite municipal efforts in addressing local insurgency. In an activity conducted on July 01, 2020, around 70 participants from various law enforcement agencies converged to establish PLEDS Cluster Operations Coordinating Centers in each municipality.

Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 commander Lt. Col. Charlie Domingo Jr PN(M) said the implementing plan of the PTF ELCAC was cascaded to set the foundations of the Northern and Southern Palawan PLEDS. PLEDS is composed of law enforcement agencies including all military units, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police, and the National Bureau of Investigation. *“Isa sa mga nakalagay sa mandato ay dapat maka-establish ng PLEDS Cluster Operations Coordinating Centers. Ginawa natin ito sa lahat ng agencies sa ilalim ng PLEDS. Isinama natin dito ang Bureau of Fire Protection dahil malaki ang kanilang tungkulin sa pag-respond at imbestiga sa mga panununog*

ng mga communist terrorist groups,” Domingo said.

Domingo said ELCAC at the municipal level is already functioning but they need to be sustained by having PLEDS clusters. *“Dapat suportado sila ng mga mechanisms para masuportahan sila ng PTF ELCAC natin at mga PLEDS Cluster activities nito. Malinaw sa implementing plan kung kailan ang meeting at mga operations na gagawin,”* he said.

Lt. Col. Glenn B. Destriza PN(M), who represented the Western Command and serves as the Director of the PTF ELCAC Operations Center, spoke about the history of the insurgency in Palawan and the importance of inter-agency coordination to attain the objectives of PTF ELCAC. *“With the long-standing and harmonious working relationship between the AFP and our counterpart law enforcement agencies under the PLEDS Cluster, I am confident that we will succeed and prevent the occurrence of any operational mishaps or untoward incidents,”* he said.

The municipal officials expressed their support and agreed to activate their municipal PLEDS clusters.

Mr. Alex Baaco, News Correspondent, Palawan News

[Baaco, A. \(2020, July 04\). palawan news online. Retrieved July 23, 2020, from palawan-news.com: http://palawan-news.com/coordination-mechanism-for-anti-insurgency-efforts-in-n-palawan-set-up/](http://palawan-news.com/coordination-mechanism-for-anti-insurgency-efforts-in-n-palawan-set-up/)



KILLED IN AN ENCOUNTER WITH MARINE TROOPS



Bonifacio Magramo
aka Boywan @
Secretary, SRMA-4E



aka Selnon/ Cilnon
CO, SRMA-4E



Andrea Rosal
aka Naya/ Ram/ Inlay/ Joey
Deputy Secretary
KLG-Palawan



Ren Manalo
aka Pandan



aka RJ/ Jay R/ Reden



PALAWAN'S RANKING CTG-NPA LEADERS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER WITH MARINES

By: 3rd Marine Brigade

Ranking leaders of the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG)-New People's Army (NPA) in the province were killed early dawn of September 03, 2020 when they run into government troops operating against them in Sitio Kubuyoan, Barangay Mainit in Brooke's Point.

The encounter between the armed members of the Bienvenido Vallever Command, the NPA's unit in the province, and the Force Reconnaissance Group under the command of the 3rd Marine Brigade happened at 5:35 a.m. resulting in the neutralization of five CTGs and one government soldier casualty.

Killed during the confrontation were Bonifacio Magramo @Boywan, Secretary of the Sub-Regional Military Area-4E (SRME-4E); Andrea Rosal @Naya (daughter of Ka Roger Rosal); deputy secretary; Noel Siasico @Ka Celnon, and two other guerrilla fighters known as Ka RJ (male) and Ka Pandan/Lemon (female).

They were the identified casualties during the eight-minute encounter with the 3MBde headed by Bri. Gen. Nestor C. Herico PN(M). Herico said Magramo, Rosal and Siasico have standing warrants of arrest and were among the top wanted NPA in Palawan. They were also responsible for the harassment of government forces and the perpetration of atrocities that recently victimized a COVID-19 government frontline.

Herico said elements of the 2nd Platoon 61st Marine Company, Force Recon Group, and Marine Battalion

Landing- 4, which have operational jurisdiction over the southern part of Palawan, conducted focused military operation in the hinterlands where Indigenous People (IP) have been reporting the presence of armed groups in their neighboring community.

"Nakakalungkot ang pangyayaring ito, kaya ako ay muling nananawagan na sumuko ang ilan pang nalalabing Communist Terrorist Group o NPA sa kabundukan. Walang mananalo pag kapwa Pilipino ang naglalaban-laban. Hangad ng iyong Armed Forces ang nagkakaisang Pilipino. Kaya't ibandila natin ang kapayapaan sa isang maayos at tahimik na pagyapak sa panawagan ng pamahalaang sumuko at ibaba ang armas. Ang mithiin ng gobyerno natin ay mabigyan ng pagkakataon na maging produktibo ang lahat ng mamayan kasama na ang mga dating rebelde," he said.

He also added: *"Ang aking pagdadalamhati at pakikiramay sa naulilang pamilya ni SSgt Cesar R Barlas, na siyang nagbuwis ng buhay sa naganap na engkwentro laban komunistang NPA. Ang kabayanihan ng bawat sundalong nakikipaglaban ay hinding-hindi kailan man matatawaran. Si SSgt Barlas ay isang Palaweño at ibinuwis ang kanyang buhay para sa kanyang mahal na lalawigan."*

The 3MBde called on the remaining NPAs to peacefully surrender and embrace the government's peace and surrender offer under PTF ELCAC.



Supporting Peaceful Settlements of Clan Wars in Maguindanao

The local government of Sultan Kudarat, led by Hon. Datu Shameem B. Mastura recently intensified its efforts to settle rido (clan wars) in the community. *Rido* is a Moro term referring to the bloody family feud involving Moro families.

The *rido* incident in the municipality of Sultan Kudarat in Maguindanao, particularly in Barangay Macaguiling, started on March 04, 2020 when one relative from the family of a Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Commander was shot in front of their house due to alleged involvement in illegal drugs. Eight days later, an incident transpired at the same barangay between the group of the said MNLF Commander and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members. This immediately led to the involvement of the 2nd Marine Company, led by Cpt. Jonathan P. Salcedo PN(M) and personnel of Sultan Kudarat Municipal Police Station, led by P/Maj. Asdani PNP, to pacify the *rido* between the two factions. On the same day, Hon. Datu Shameem B. Mastura, municipal mayor of Sultan Kudarat, together with MP Hadji Ahmad O. Mastura, a BTA member, conducted a dialogue with Lt. Col. Alimuddin U. Pola PN(M) of Marine Battalion Landing Team-2, local members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials of Macaguiling, representatives from the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities – MILF, and the two parties involved in the incident. The dialogue allowed all parties to determine the cause of the incident and discuss how to prevent the escalation of hostilities. The dialogue also opened the opportunity to hear the two sides of the story from both parties and identify the real reason behind the incident.

After a series of talks, August 02, 2020 marked the *rido* settlement and reconciliation of the involved parties in



the presence of MP Hadji Ahmad O. Mastura, with Sultan Kudarat Representative Datu Banjo Mampon, Commanding Officer Cpt. Salcedo PN(M), Sultan Kudarat Chief of Police P/Maj. Asdani PNP, CCCH-MILF member Mr. Abu Saima, and other MILF and MNLF commanders as witnesses. Both groups, although sustaining casualties during the engagement, chose to settle their differences and grudges. The *rido* settlement was a success and established a good example to other warring groups showing that peace and reconciliation are possible options and that there is no such thing as a long-standing feud if only the involved groups are willing to cooperate and set aside their revenge mentality.

The usual main causes of rido are election-related issues, land ownership concerns, and personal grudges. Rido causes problems not only to the warring parties but also to the entire community as it causes suffering, destruction of properties, and displacement of the affected populace. Peaceful settlements and continuous dialogues will help fast track the pacification of a rido and hopefully prevent them from happening again.

2LT ARGEL LOUIS G DELOS REYES PN(M)
3rd Platoon Commander, 2nd Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 2



MBLT-5 PUTS PUBLIC SECURITY AT THE FOREFRONT



In the midst of the pandemic, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 5 continues to perform its mandated duty to conduct Development Support and Security Operations in its area of responsibility. The current situation is complex which requires flexibility in its approach to different problems but will still produce holistic solutions in order to support the enforcement of the rules set by the national government. To understand more the dynamics of the area here are just some examples of the challenges faced by MBLT-5:



COVID-19

MBLT-5 conducted various activities to support the national and local governments in combatting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The quarantine control points of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao are being secured and manned by personnel from MBLT-5 with their counterparts from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office and other front liners who enforced the Community Quarantine guidelines set by the Interagency Task Force on COVID-19. MBLT-5 has provided security assistance to every initiative, whether government or private, that aims to alleviate the effects of the community quarantine to the less fortunate such as the distribution of Social Amelioration Program (SAP) funds and rice distribution by the Office of the Chief Minister, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) through its Project TABANG. Another current concern is the disposition of the Locally Stranded Individuals (LSI) through the national government's Balik Probinsya Program, which requires the cooperation of local governments.

Smuggled Goods

Presently, MBLT-5 has apprehended a total estimated market value of P 9M worth of smuggled goods, mostly cigarettes from Malaysia. Initially, the smugglers used the highway along Lanao del Sur as a corridor for their smuggled goods disembarked from Zamboanga City to Malabang, Lanao del Sur but, their operations were thwarted several times by MBLT-5. The recent incursions led the smugglers to try a different approach through the coastal areas near Malabang. When the smugglers unloaded their contraband at Arabmat beach and dispatched by trucks heading to Malabang commercial district, they were interrupted by personnel of MBLT-5. The local populace then noticed this change in atmosphere since the Marines took over and are right to do so. Truly, the Philippine Marine Corps stays true to how it was envisioned by the President Magsaysay in 1950 – as a “light, hard hitting, highly mobile, and composed of disciplined and dedicated officers and men capable of aggressively and persistently pursuing seagoing smugglers, pirates and other lawless elements throughout the archipelago”.



Rido settlements

Often the phrase “winning hearts and minds” is heard but its application is sometimes mistaken as superficially befriending the local populace. Winning hearts and minds do not stop once-friendly terms with the people are established, but rather, it is just the initial step in influencing the attitude of the people who are within the unit’s Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Handling rido settlements requires a great amount of discernment and objectivity to help facilitate the attainment of justice. While every faction has reasons for their actions, it must be ingrained in their minds that there are laws governing their actions and every killing is treated as a criminal offense subject to prosecution by judicial authorities. The key to a successful rido settlement is the sincerity of both parties in ending their conflict and accepting the proper application of laws.

MNLF/MILF

In June and July 2020, MBLT-5 supervised the dismantling of one MNLF and one MILF detachments/posts. The dismantling of the MNLF detachment/post was the result of negotiation with an MNLF commander who established it not for tactical maneuver purposes but rather for imposing his authority over his neighboring relatives he was in conflict with. A settlement, facilitated by MBLT-5, was then conducted leading to an end to the conflict and the dismantling of the MNLF detachment.

The dismantled MILF detachment/post, meanwhile, was the result of cooperation between the local government unit of Barira, Maguindanao, 1st Marine Brigade, Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of

Hostilities (CCCH), and the Marine Battalion Landing Team-5. The MILF detachment was petitioned by the mayor of Barira because its former position was adjacent to the street leading to Bulubudtua Falls, and it may alarm tourists passing through to visit the tourist spot. The said detachment was then dismantled and transferred to a farther location away from the public view. These are just the initial steps for more future coordination with these peace-inclined groups (MNLF/MILF) leading to total healing of the land and end of conflicts.



The accomplishment of the mandate of MBLT-5 relies heavily on its execution of TRIAD operations in order to be deliberate on its every action. Sooner or later, this area will have a paradigm shift and will be aligned to a way of life that rejects violence and celebrates life and liberty. Until then, MBLT-5 will continue to manifest the phrase “no better friend, no worse enemy” coined by Gen. James Mattis USMC. Let the people know that the Philippine Marines are their partners in nation-building and for the terrorists and lawless elements to fear the very sight of our shadows.



2LT EPHRAIM A EBIL PN(M)

3rd Platoon Commander, 5th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 5

MARINES OF CENTRAL MINDANAO

By: 1st Marine Brigade



The 1st Marine Brigade (1MBde) set foot in Central Mindanao in November 2010 from the Province of Basilan. The brigade was then designated as the Naval Task Group Central under Joint Task Force Central (JTFC). Since then, the unit is continuously touching lives and winning the peace in its areas of operation (AO).

In the recent JTFC implemented rotation of AO of its Brigades, the 1MBde has assumed operational responsibility over the four municipalities of Lanao del Sur (Malabang, Picong, Balabagan, and Kapatagan), eight municipalities of Maguindanao (Datu Blah Sinsuat, Buldon, Barira, Kabuntalan, Parang, Matanog, Sultan Kudarat, and Sultan Mastura), six coastal barangays of Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality (Tamontaka, Semba, Linek, Badak, Kusiong, and Tapan); and the city of Cotabato. The 1MBde is currently under the leadership of Bri. Gen. Jonas R. Lumawag PN(M).

With its two OPCON Battalions and Attached Units from Combat and Service Support Brigade, the 1MBde has accomplished the following for the current year:

ON NORMALIZATION UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON THE BANGSAMORO

Last February 18, 2020, the Marines once again displayed the highest standard of discipline and professionalism when they secured the second phase of the resumption of the decommissioning of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) fighters and their weapons.

ON THE WAR ON DRUGS

With the government's campaign on anti-illegal drugs, the 1MBde conducted series of Joint Buy-Bust Operations during the first semester of this year in support to law enforcement agencies (PDEA and PNP). Notable among the operations conducted were: arrest of suspects and confiscation of more or less 425 grams of shabu with an estimated market value of P2.8 million at Brgy Taviran, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao; neutralization of drug suspect and confiscation of more or less 2 kilograms of shabu with a market value of P13.6 million in Cotabato

City; neutralization of two drug dealers and confiscation of P10.2 million worth of shabu, one cal. 45 pistol, and one hand grenade in Malabang Lanao del Sur; and arrest of five drug dealers with P13.6 million worth of shabu at Malabang, Lanao del Sur. All in all, a total of 3.956 kilograms of shabu worth P26.8 million were confiscated.

ON SMUGGLING

Not even the COVID-19 pandemic can stop unscrupulous traders from smuggling illicit cigarettes in Central Mindanao. With the presence of PC384 under NTU 2 that is constantly conducting MARPAT and MIO in the more or less 300 nautical miles of coastal waters in the AO, smuggled cigarettes were transported by land using delivery trucks in the guise of essential items in order to pass through Quarantine Control Points. From January to July 2020, the apprehended smuggled cigarettes were: one bongo truck loaded with smuggled cigarettes amounting to P700,000 in Picong, Lanao del Sur; one motorized banca loaded with 180 boxes of smuggled cigarettes amounting to P2.5 million in Malabang, Lanao del Sur; one closed van loaded with 140 boxes of smuggled cigarettes amounting to P3.5 million in Picong, Lanao del Sur; and one van truck loaded with smuggled cigarettes amounting to P1.7 million in Picong, Lanao del Sur. To include all of the other apprehensions, all in all, a total of more or less 336 boxes worth P11.4 million were apprehended.

ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

In support of DENR's campaign on illegal logging, a total of 17,1731 board feet of undocumented lumbers with a total market value of P192,098.00 were confiscated through the established checkpoints from May to June 2020.

ON CIVIL AFFAIRS

Last January 20, 2020, 1MBde conducted community outreach program at Abubakar Siddique Elementary School that benefited more or less five hundred (500) pupils who availed of the following services: free medical and dental consultation; circumcision; food feeding; free haircut; new slippers; and parlor games.



With the COVID-19 pandemic, units under 1MBde were organized and formed part of the IATF of the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur and the city of Cotabato.

The following initiatives were conducted:

- Establishment of 41 Quarantine Control Points
- Dissemination through loud speaker operations in the local dialects and leaflet distribution
- Transportation assistance
- Assistance in the delivery of health care gears, medicines and provision of manpower for the repacking and house to house distribution of relief goods
- Liaising with non-government organization for PPEs for the frontliners

ON TROOPS' MORALE ACTIVITIES

Aside from the usual combat operations and support to law enforcement operations, the brigade always finds time to conduct administrative activities.

In celebration of the Brigade's Activation Day on January 17, 2020, a sportsfest was conducted and participated by the OPCON and attached units. The traditional sportsfest always aims to build rapport and foster teamwork and unity in fighting as one and winning as one.

In addition to the usual stakeholder engagement on peace and development, a fun shoot was held at 1MBde

Firing Range and was participated by the local government units together with their officials, PNP, gun enthusiasts, and personnel of 1MBde. The event was more of building acquaintance with the stakeholders. It was aimed to renew the commitment for active partnership for peace and promote confidence and harmonious relationship.

Bri. Gen. Lumawag PN(M) always gives recognition to deserving troops. As such, he presided the donning of ranks of two newly promoted officers and 14 enlisted personnel.

Awards were also conferred by this brigade to its deserving personnel. The following were the awards:

- 32 Military Merit Medal for 2,219 personnel
- 4 Military Civic Action Medal for 139 personnel
- 1 Parangal sa Kapanalig ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas for 12 personnel
- 5 Military Commendation Medal for 162 personnel
- 8 Armed Forces Conduct Medal for 454 personnel
- 7 various awards (BCM, Silver Cross, ADCMR, 2 Martial Law Citation, MCAM and Combat Kagitingan) were recommended to Higher Headquarters

With all of its achievements, 1MBde will always remain as a reliable force in all its endeavors to help attain and sustain lasting peace, development and prosperity in its areas of operation. 1st Marine Brigade, the Team "Laging Handa" will never cease to Keep Going! After having taken victory over the obstacles before us in accomplishing our mission, 1MBde will always be ready for the challenges ahead.



Pagsulut sin Nagbanli ha Lupah Sug (Rido Settlement in Sulu)

KALINGALAN CALUANG, SULU – Nelson Mandela, a former president of South Africa, once said, “Peace is the greatest weapon for development that any person can have”

The Marine Battalion Landing Team – 7, in collaboration with local government units, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders, facilitated the settlement of family feuds (rido) in the mainland municipality of Kalingalan Caluang and island municipalities of Pata, Siasi, and Pandami as part of the unit’s efforts of ending local armed conflict (ELAC) to support peace and the progressive development within the unit’s area of operation.

Rido refers to local conflicts between feuding families and characterized by periodic outburst of retaliatory violence between families, kinship groups, or clans. This is one cause of armed violence that results to displacement and untold sufferings of the people of Sulu.

Since its deployment last July 2019 in Sulu, the Striking Battalion was able to facilitate a total of 8 rido settlements and prevented some misunderstandings from escalating through diplomatic settlements.

The conduct of rido settlements made a strong impact to the local populace as it greatly contributed to



peace and normalcy in the community. It also serves to strengthen the relationship between the Marines and the community as this demonstrates the Marines’ commitment to work with the people in achieving peace and development in the “Land of Promise” or the Lupah Sug.



2LT JOHN CLEO B LAZARO PN(M)
3rd Platoon Commander, 7th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 7



ASG MEMBER SURRENDERS TO MBLT-1

By: Pvt Richard S Carmelotes PN(M)

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 led by its former Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Ashley N. Nastor PN(M), in collaboration with the Panamao municipality led by Hon. Al-Frazier S. Abdurajak, Municipal Mayor, Hon. Hja Imelda T. Idris, Punong Barangay of Brgy. Kansipat and PLt. Nagdir Awang PNP, Chief of Police of Panamao MPS, successfully facilitated the surrender of one Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) member at the Headquarters MBLT-1, Brgy Seit Lake Poblacion, Panamao, Sulu on June 23, 2020. The said ASG member willfully surrendered to the unit with his high-powered firearm, a unit of Garand rifle.

The peacebuilding efforts of the unit, in partnership with the local government of Panamao, are now making progress and gaining momentum as surrenderers are offered a chance to reintegrate into the mainstream society and bring back normalcy in their lives. The ASG member who recently surrendered will be included in the 4th Marine Brigade's list of surrenderers and will avail of the brigade's livelihood and scholarship programs.

Said effort is also part of the municipality's collective peace and development initiatives. The community declares the ASG as persona non grata and further declared that their municipality will no longer be a haven for the ASG.

MBLT-1 CONDUCTS MILF/MNLF KEY LEADERS' ENGAGEMENT

By: Marine Battalion Landing Team - 1

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 led by its former Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Ashley N. Nastor PN(M), together with Col Gregorio B Hernandez Jr PN(M), DBC 4MBde, spearheaded the conduct of the MILF/MNLF Key Leaders' Engagement held at the Panamao Covered Court, Brgy. Seit Lake Poblacion, Panamao, Sulu on June 27, 2020.

The activity was attended by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leaders and their members, with the presence of local government representatives led by Hon. Mayor Al-Frazier S Abdurajak, members of the Association of Barangay Chairmen of Panamao, and Panamao MPS. It was facilitated by the Silsilah Forum Jolo and Tumikang Sama-Sama, Inc.

With a theme, "Pagbimaruf ha Kahanungan iban Kasambuhan" (Pulong-Pulong para sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran), the activity aimed to open the door for a strengthened security collaboration, unity and cooperation, and peacebuilding activities among security forces, local government, and the MILF and MNLF in the area. The dialogue proved to be a good venue where the leaders and



their members were able to raise issues and concerns, collectively come up with solutions, and commit their utmost cooperation and support towards the attainment and preservation of lasting peace in the area.

Giving Hope Amidst the Throes

With the approval and implementation of the National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (NAP-PCVE), the Marine Battalion Landing Team 8 anchored its implementation plan on the 4th Marine Brigade's current efforts. This plan employs a bi-centric approach, namely enemy-centric and people-centric, which addresses the drivers of terrorism and terrorism itself. It is well-acknowledged that we cannot beat terrorism if we, the AFP, will be working alone. The community's support and the cooperation of the members of the local government are vital in this endeavor. Hence, the whole Sulu Provincial government organized the Task Force ELAC (Ending Local Armed Conflict) to help prevent violent extremism as reflected in their programs, which were oriented to focus on the PCVE.

While implementing this action plan, the unit is also continuously providing support in the community through military operations to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Facing various enemies, both seen and unseen, is a sure challenge to every organization. However, like a chameleon, we have the ability to adapt to our environment just like in this current situation. As English writer Max McKweon explained, "All failure is failure to adapt, all success is successful adaptation". It is in this perspective that we continue our fight against terrorism amidst the new normal and this may be taxing but we have taken an oath to

protect the people from these adversaries while ensuring the wellness of our own ranks.

The MBLT-8 recognizes all those who have been active partners in all of its endeavors, which is why last July 28, 2020, the Peacemaker Battalion had a simple celebration of its 42nd activation highlighting the history of the unit and the awarding of its personnel and civilian partners. Post-celebration activities included a children's party, a coastal cleanup drive in the three municipalities, and a bloodletting activity held from August 04 to 07, 2020 to celebrate the collaboration of stakeholders in the midst of a pandemic. Furthermore, donations from Samyu-Global Holdings and VAW Senior Leadership Forum WGC- Breakfast & Clubs to aid under-nourished children and pregnant women were turned over to the Rural Health Units of Luuk, Omar and Banguingui. Also, the Peacemaker's Livelihood Assistance Program, which will provide opportunities to market products from small cottage industries, will soon be launched to provide livelihood training for women, specifically the wives and daughters of ASG surrenderees. In this manner, the drivers of the violent extremism will be slowly addressed with the help of the local government and local civil society organizations such as the Gagandilan Mindanao Women, Inc.

The pandemic is not a hindrance for us to serve our fellow Filipinos as there will always be ways to extend our helping hand.



*CPT MARIA ROWENA B DALMACIO PN(M), Commanding Officer,
Headquarters Service Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 8*

From rebels to artisans...

4th Marine Brigade Initiates Livelihood Program for ASG Returnees

By: 4th Marine Brigade

“ My burning desire for combat was overpowered by the amazing beauty of the region. I love the beauty of its landscape, the breath-taking unspoiled beaches. I was drawn by the richness of its ancient culture.”

After several tours in different capacities and positions spanning twenty-nine years of his military career, Col. Ruben B. Candelario PN(M), Commander of the 4th Marine Brigade, remains deeply in love with Sulu. His heart feels deeply for its people, whose poverty is in stark contrast with the richness of the land. The pervading poverty in the community made him probe as a young warrior – ‘how do they cope with their daily needs?’

Looking back to 1991, when he first stepped on the rich soil of Sulu, Colonel Candelario recalls:

“We chased the enemies, captured and killed them, we felt momentarily victorious, but the feeling never lasted. The feeling that comes in its wake is emptiness. Pure emptiness and the instinct that something is not right. The enemy appeared mostly frail, emaciated and weak-looking. While we fought in full battle gear, trained in combat, our enemies were often barefoot, some of them wore slippers. But what makes them capable killing machines? What drives them to such desperation?”

The question was left unanswered through the years, but it lived in his mind and continued to baffle him even as he was away from Sulu.

In 2014, Colonel Candelario embarked on a cerebral effort to resolve his deep-seated questions, writing a thesis on sustainable peace that earned him a Master’s degree in National Security Administration (MNSA) at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP).

Today, Colonel Candelario actively applies and practices what he wrote in his thesis:

“The Non-Conventional role of the AFP in Social Enterprise with the Poor as the Primary Stakeholders (SEPPS): An Integrated Approach Towards Sustainable Peace and Development in Sulu”.

On May 04, 2020, as the pandemic rages, Colonel Candelario is back in Sulu as the newly posted Commander of the provisional 4th Marine Brigade. It is almost a homecoming. This time, he is determined to find the answer to the question that have baffled him all these years.

Just over a year after its activation, the 4th Marine Brigade, following a successful combat operation and continuous collaboration with its stakeholders, seven Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) rebels surrendered before its first activation anniversary on June 12, 2020, barely two months upon his assumption as the Commander, 4th Marine Brigade.

With seven rebels back in the fold, Colonel Candelario is inspired and perceives an opportunity to bring his thesis to life – that of activating the military’s non-traditional role of pursuing a program that the 4th MBde calls, “Livelihood for Rebel Returnees (LRR)”.

Colonel Candelario conceptualized a scheme to provide the returnees with a sustainable livelihood by coming up with a brigade-initiated ‘livelihood’ program. A sustainable livelihood is a message of sincerity from the government and the military. It conveys acceptance and reintegration of returnees into the daily mainstream of life.





With the abundance of rocks, stones, and other raw materials in his area of operations (AO), the brigade painstakingly researched how to make products out of these raw materials. Procuring one tool and equipment at a time and persistently working on the products, the brigade was able to prove the feasibility of making sets of mortar and pestle as well as other souvenir items from rocks and driftwood. After successfully producing prototypes of mortar and pestle, the said craft was introduced to the returnees who immediately manifested their eagerness and enthusiasm to learn. To ensure the success of the project, a working area of a makeshift hut was constructed to house its workers.

The LRR has the full support of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Y. Casem, PN(M), the Commandant Philippine Marine Corps, and attracted the attention of the local governments of Sulu. Congressman Munir Arbison of the 2nd district of Sulu has always been behind the successful activities of the 4th MBde and this program also received his support. The Chairwoman of Brgy Tubig-puti, Rudzna A Wee, showed great interest and manifested active involvement in the program. This sent a ripple that reached other municipal mayors of the 4th MBde's AO who are excited to come up with the same program in their respective municipalities.

Today, there are three returnees regularly working with the brigade-initiated livelihood program of making mortar and pestle, paper weight, and other souvenir items. The brigade hopes for the success of the project, envisioning it as an encouragement for ASG rebels to return to the fold of the law.

To stimulate sustainability of the project, Colonel Candelario designed an advertisement for social media, posting these adverts along with the tagline, "Livelihood for our Rebel Returnees", to brand the brigade's efforts. The advertisements mention the purpose of the project and the beneficiaries of its proceeds, the children of the returnees.

Other products in the LRR include the traditional bolo from Luuk, weaving, and basket making using a native vine (gati), which is also abundant in the area. These items are now being studied and considered for production in the brigade-initiated livelihood program.

To showcase these items, a display room is set up at the brigade headquarters for visitors to appreciate the effort and realize the sincere intent of the project to support the children of the returnees. With hopeful eagerness, Colonel Candelario says these handmade items are now finding their way to the market and the LRR is beginning its journey toward a sustainable livelihood for the returnees. As of this writing, the initiative is being replicated by different livelihood centers being constructed by the Marine Battalions under 4th MBde within their AO.

Seeking to produce better quality of products, the brigade collaborated with TESDA, which is also supportive of the LRR. They have committed to provide tools and equipment to be used by the returnees.

The LRR is just the beginning of more initiatives that we hope to see. A sustainable livelihood that builds the foundation of a stable community at peace with its natural environment will need more than the LRR. It needs good support from its own people and the ethical leadership of its local government so that this combination will work in symbiosis to bridge the social divide and ensure that "no one left behind", most specially today in the midst of a pandemic.

In line with other programs and activities in our collective effort to end the local armed conflict (ELAC) in the province of Sulu with the full support of the provincial governor himself, the Honorable Abdusakur Tan, the brigade-initiated livelihood program for rebel returnees (LRR) could be a prelude to a peaceful beginning towards the attainment of a lasting peace and development in Sulu, a way to rub out the reason for our brothers to go astray.

MBLT-6 receives the Naval Forces Western Mindanao Marine Battalion Landing Team of the Year Award 2020



Lt. Col. Noel N. Calendatas PN(M), Commanding Officer, MBLT-6 received the award from RADM ERICK A KAGAOAN AFP, Commander, NFWM last September 28, 2020 at the Naval Station Romulo Espaldon, Zamboanga City.

Marine Battalion Landing Team 6 received the “Best Battalion” award when it was hailed as the best in the area of responsibility of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao during the celebration of its 24th founding anniversary last September 28, 2020 at the Naval Station Romulo Espaldon, Zamboanga City.

The award was received by Lt. Col. Noel N. Calendatas PN(M), Commanding Officer, MBLT-6 from Radm. Erick A. Kagaon PN(M), Commander, NFWM. The “Best Battalion” recognition is given to a unit garnering the highest scores in competencies that contribute to the overall mission of the Philippine Navy. Such competencies include combat operations and patrols, confiscation and recovery of firearms, apprehension of criminals, and civil military operations. Another parameter included in the criteria is the administration of personnel and the management of their morale and welfare.

MBLT-6 is vigorous in its campaign against smuggling, human trafficking, facilitation of surrendered loose firearms, drug personalities, and lawless elements in its area of responsibility, working together with other law enforcement agencies. These tasks were simultaneously accomplished along with the continuous efforts against the COVID-19 pandemic.

This recognition strengthens the MBLT-6's commitment to remain steadfast in their valiant efforts in securing and protecting their area of responsibility, which covers the six Tawi-Tawi municipalities of Languyan, Sapa-Sapa, South Ubian, Tandubas, Mapun, and Taganak.

MAJ FELIX A SERAPIO JR PN(M), Operation Officer, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 6



The Southernmost Front's **War on Drugs**

Mission accomplishment has been at the forefront of Marine Battalion Landing Team-9 in their deployment in the Province of Tawi-Tawi. The unit has been actively participating in the conduct of Focused Military Operations, Support to Law Enforcement Operations, Civil-Military Operation, Local Government Assistance, and Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Response Operations. The unit's participation in these activities has significantly contributed to the overall success of the Philippine Marine Corps and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. One of the most notable achievements of the Red Lions Battalion was in support of the national government's "War on Drugs." The unit successfully participated in Joint Law Enforcement Operations that carried out the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

In December 2019, MBLT-9 was tapped by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to participate in a Joint Law Enforcement Operations to apprehend high valued drug personalities in the area of operations. The battalion tasked to support the PDEA team while conducting a high-level buy-bust operation in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. MBLT-9, through its Special Operations Platoon-9 (SOP), successfully executed the special operations with no harm.



The joint law enforcement operations apprehended four drug personalities and the recovery of five kilograms of crystallized methamphetamine (shabu) amounting to P34 Million.

The Marines remain committed to their mission and exerts their full effort to accomplish it no matter the circumstances, no matter the risks.



*2LT MARK LEARY H BITAGO PN(M)
Platoon Commander, 29th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 9*



MBLT-2 anti-drug ops net **P13.6M shabu in Cotabato City**

In support of the government's war on drugs, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-2 worked with the Cotabato City Police Office in conducting a drug buy-bust operation

on June 15, 2020 in Barangay Poblacion 9, Cotabato City. The joint operation resulted in an armed encounter and neutralization of a drug personality. Two kilograms of

suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly known as “shabu”, were confiscated with an estimated value of P13.6 Million. The operation also yielded marked money amounting to P1.3 Million, one caliber .45 pistol, and a single Rusi Motorcycle color black/red with no plate number. The drug suspect was killed during the armed encounter while there were no casualties on the government side.

The joint buy-bust operation is a part of Law Enforcement and Support Operations (LESO) that

intensifies the collaborative whole-of-government approach between law enforcement agencies and the armed forces. The Marines, in particular, are committed to safeguarding the communities against the illicit drug trade and other criminal activities. Lt. Col. Alimudin U. Pola PN(M), Battalion Commander, said that this was the result of close coordination and intelligence sharing between the local PNP and the Marines. He commended the operatives and vowed the Marines’ relentless support for the government’s war on drugs.



1LT ELICA ANTONIETTE KAYLA V HONDUNA PN(M)
Acting Civil Military Operation Officer, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 2



39TH MC, MBLT-9 STRENGTHENS FIGHT AGAINST **ILLEGAL DRUGS**



Illegal drugs remain a big problem in the country, even in far-flung areas as far as Sitangkai in Tawi-Tawi province. Surrounded by seawater, the municipality of Sitangkai has been vulnerable to illegal drug activities as its boundaries are porous and local trades are done by boats through its water thoroughfares and arteries. It is the farthest municipality in the southwest. Some of its barangays and sitios are in remote islands where clustered wooden stilt houses, more commonly known as “pondohans”, are found. With limited economic opportunities, some people resort to the illegal drug trade.

In partnership with Sitangkai Municipal Police Station (MPS) with support from the local government unit, the 39th Marine Company stationed in Sitangkai has been relentless in its campaign against illegal drugs. The campaign has been successful with the confiscation of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and loose firearms.



Five drug personalities in Barangay Poblacion and Barangay Sipangkot in Sitangkai municipality were arrested for possession of illegal drugs, illegal firearms, and ammunition. The Joint Law Enforcement Operation of 39th Marine Company and Sitangkai MPS at Sitio Saluag, Barangay Datu Baguinda Puti, Sitangkai yielded several high-powered firearms and ammunition believed to be used by drug personalities in the area.

Solving the drug problem is no easy task. It is a risky operation that requires careful planning and coordination. Rest assured that the 39th Marine Company will continue its campaign against illegal drugs and ensure the security of the people of Sitangkai.

2LT CLARENCE DELFIE M GAJITO JR PN(M)
Platoon Commander, 39th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 9





A Training Ground like No Other: Dispatch from Tawi-Tawi

The best training ground for a newly reported Private like me is not found within the halls of a training center alone but also in an operational area like where I am today... in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi. It is far away from home, but it is a place where I can enhance my strength and overcome my weaknesses as a newly minted Marines.

Performing my duties here is a big challenge. Each day, I encounter several people with different personalities and status in life. I also meet new friends and talk to them about their way of life and the challenges they face. Sitangkai may have its development and security issues but what is most notable is the people's resilience, hard work, and determination in providing for their families.

As Marines, we do our usual tasks and reach out to as many people who live in different islands as possible. We organize medical missions and other outreach programs to help provide them with their basic medical and social needs. We also work with law enforcement agencies to maintain peace and ensure everyone's security.

I have the privilege to communicate and deal with local folks because I can fluently speak the dialect. It is humbling to know that because of the presence of Marines in Sitangkai, many people have expressed their appreciation for the unit for making them feel safe in their day to day activities. While chatting with them, I heard one



say, "Mataud masusa bang malawa na in Marines di" (Many will feel upset if Marines will be replaced here). Hearing such a statement is truly heart-warming. I am sure we have done our part as Marines and I am so proud to be one.

My experiences and learnings as Marines have been developed through the guidance and assistance of my officers and peers. As the most junior private of the unit, it is hard for me to do my daily tasks but then as I go along with this journey, I am inspired and determined to improve myself as a true-blooded Marines. I have a long journey ahead in the service with many things to learn and skills to develop. Someday when I am past my junior status, I hope to be able to guide others and share them my experiences and learnings.



*Pvt Joshua A Damgo PN(M)
Rifleman, 39th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 9*

Marines sharpen their marksmanship skills



Each Marine has gone through the vast grounds and walls of The Basic School (TBS), a school that molded Marines into who and what they are today. Teaching these warfighters and inculcating in them the concepts of warfighting and the highest standard of military discipline, TBS has continued to produce, breed, and develop the exemplars of the best in soldiery. These Marines would eventually be deployed to the various units of the Philippine Marine Corps stationed from Luzon to Mindanao.

Aside from the training provided by TBS, there are also Marine Corps level training, farm-out courses, and in-house battalion training and seminars. The in-house battalion-level training and seminars are the most common courses convened, which may be convened in the unit's area of responsibility even while in the operational areas.

One of the in-house unit training is the Squad Designated Marksman Training (SDM Training), which is the closest training a Marine can get to the Marine Scout Sniper Course. It aims to develop highly qualified and highly skilled Squad Designated Marksmen. It has become a practice for rifle battalions to require applicants for the Marine Scout Sniper Course to have undergone and excelled in the rigid training of an SDM. The SDM training is facilitated by competent and highly skilled personnel who are also graduates of the Marine Scout Sniper Course.

The conduct of training and seminars such as the SDM Training demonstrates that our Marines never settle for less. We make sure that we have the right skills and competencies, we continue to sharpen our cutting edge to live up to the standard as the AFP's premier force of choice.



*2LT MARK LEARY H BITAGO PN(M)
Platoon Commander, 29th Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 9*



MBLT-10 AND 17IB PARTNER UP FOR CAFGU ACTIVE AUXILIARY REFRESHER TRAINING

The Marine Battalion Landing Team 10, in collaboration with the Philippine Army 17th Infantry Battalion, conducted the CAFGU (Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit) Active Auxiliary (CAA) Refresher Training Class to 30 CAA personnel last June 01 to 15, 2020 at the Headquarters Naval Base Camilo Osias, Brgy. San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan. The CAAs, composing the CAA Refresher Training Class 02-20, were selected from different patrol bases under the operational control of MBLT-10.

The 15-day refresher training aimed to enhance the operational capability of CAA personnel serving as force augmentation in the defense of their respective communities within the MBLT-10's Area of Operation (AO) in 10 municipalities of North East Cagayan. The trainees were refreshed on the basic military skills such as patrolling, marksmanship, land navigation, checkpoint operation, and basic life support. The highlight of the training activity was the rare opportunity for CAAs to be familiarized with some Marine competencies as they are usually under the

command and control of Philippine Army units. The CAAs were introduced to boat handling procedures, night firing with night-vision device, and small unit amphibious raid, which will be of great help in the event of possible joint operation with Marine units.

Hon. Rodrigo P. De Gracia, Mayor of Sta. Teresita, Cagayan graced the opening ceremony of the said training



MAJ RENATO B BONAGUA JR PN(M)
Operation Officer, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 10

activity while Hon. Florence Oliver Pascual, Mayor of Lalo Cagayan attended the closing ceremony as the keynote speaker. Both local chief executives have expressed their support in refresher training citing the importance of equipping the CAAs with necessary capabilities to prepare them in performing their mandate of defending their own communities from the NPA and other lawless elements.

MBLT-2 TRAINS FIRST BATCH OF PN RESERVISTS IN COTABATO CITY



“Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.”

– GEN GEORGE S PATTON JR.

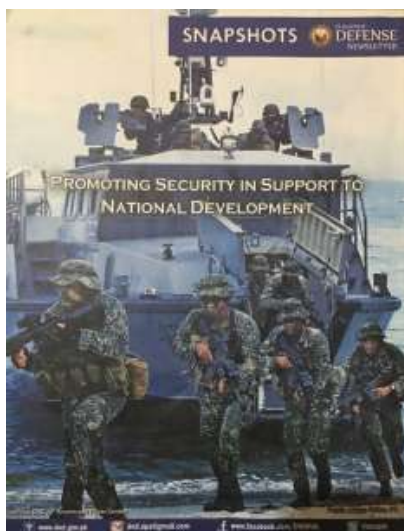
On July 18, 2020, a total of 52 volunteers accepted the challenge to become reservists of the Philippine Navy Reserve Command. The class was composed of local politicians and professionals who dedicated their time and effort as candidate reservists of the Basic Citizen Military Course (BCMC). With the motivation and support from Cdr. Suharto M. Ambolodto PN, Deputy Commander, Naval Forces Reserve Western Mindanao, the candidate reservists underwent a series of military competency trainings under the supervision of the officers and enlisted personnel of Marine Battalion Landing Team 2 (MBLT-2) headed by Lt. Col. Alimuddin U. Pola PN(M). Amidst the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the training ensued making BCMC CL 01-2020 the first batch of PN Reservists of the Cotabato City Chapter.



2LT JESSICA SHEM QUILING PN(M)
3rd Platoon Commander, 22nd Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team - 2

The BCMC Class 01-2020 is the pioneer batch of Philippine Navy reservists trained in Cotabato City. Aside from the regular set of military training that the candidate reservists had to endure, the risk of COVID-19 as an unseen threat had made the training more complicated than usual. The training staff revised the training program under the new context of the ‘new normal’. Regardless of the threat, the training pushed through with close supervision of both teams from the Naval Reserve Center - Western Mindanao and MBLT-2. Health and safety protocols mandated by the IATF on COVID-19 were strictly implemented in order to avoid the spread of the said virus.

The training provides the new reservists with confidence in using their newly-acquired skills and knowledge. They are now ready to step up to the challenge whenever the call of duty requires.



PRICELESS BONUS OF BEING A MARINE

By: MAJ ED LEONELLE MARVIN B MAPALO PN(M)

At 4 in the morning, reveille was sounded to wake up the fresh and idealistic breed of young men who volunteered to join the Philippine Marine Corps at The Basic School in Ternate Cavite. The reveille signals a hard and challenging day ahead waiting for the young soldiers eager to be part of the proudest unit of the AFP, the Philippine Marine Corps. A regular day consists of a normal Marine Corps dozen and an additional 5,000 to 10,000 kilometers run ordered by the designated drill instructor. Afterward, the rigorous training starts immediately after the morning mess until evening and ends only when the sound of taps is sounded signaling the end of the day. The training varies every day and unique to each module either for room instructions or field training exercises.

For the past decades, this is the daily routine for six months of the basic training of the Philippine Marine Corps. No wonder every member of this organization is like a "Superman" or "Wonder woman" after he/she graduates and becomes a proud member of the "Representative of the Best in Soldiery." This training prepares the Marines for the outside world. Even in the face of death, a Marine will laugh deep inside that he conquered his fear, and no one can dispute that image because of those Marines who offered their lives and made a mark in history. A Marine can move mountains and always has high confidence regardless of the situation. We would always say at the back of our minds, "Marines nga eh."

I am a proud member of this institution and the solidarity it forged among its members. It has been known and proven that Marines have these characteristics; the mind set of an indispensable human being, the privilege of being a "Tikal" and the only authorized military known by the "tell it to the Marines" quote that has been passed on to generations.

First is the mindset of an indispensable human being. For the past battles that our country fought, a Marine never hesitated to be in that position because he knew that he can survive and swiftly finish his task. This mindset emanates from the training that a Marine had undergone

in the lands of "Calumpang Island", the training ground of young warriors of the AFP. The harder we train, the more strength we gain. This gives us the feeling of being indispensable in the outside world. As famously said, "The more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in battle." Even the battle cry "The Few, the Proud, the Marines" gives us an extra boost in mindset.

Significant experience in the mindset that this author experienced was on June 11, 2009. At about 04:30 in the morning, our Battalion Command group moved to a designated location near the shoreline of Sionogan in Jolo, Sulu. While we were approaching the area as a blocking force, the retaliation of members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) who were engaged by the main effort of the other Battalion, was fleeing in our direction as perceived in the planning of the Intelligence Preparation in the Battlefield (IPB). The sound of the firefight was at first far from the main road, but when we were approaching the area, the sound of the rifle fires got louder. Until the fires were already less than 50 meters from our position at the main road, our Battalion Commander then Lt. Col. Ariel R. Caculitan PN(M) decided to halt the convoy of Marines and deploy immediately to block the ASG members fleeing the area. Without hesitation, Marines from our Special Operations Platoon "Fulton" of the Headquarters Service Company immediately jumped off from the moving M35 trucks and elf vans in the main road. My Battalion Commander immediately ordered to maneuver the two SOP of HSC and 24MC to higher ground, and the rest was history. That was my first time to experience seeing the Marines on the battlefield. It was my "baptism of fire" in service of the Philippine Marine Corps. True enough, the experience has been memorable, and I can tell the story to the next generation of Marines.

The second characteristic is the privilege of being a "Tikal." "Tikal" is an "Ilonggo" word that means boastful or even proud in any way. For the Marines, the word means a lot. We have our Marine Corps Motto of "Karangalan (Honor), Katungkulan (Duty), and Kabayanihan (Valor)."

This motto is inculcated in the training inside The Basic School. Like “Katungkulan” (Duty), we practice it in such a way that we value our service to the country. It emphasizes the need to serve with all our strength and capability to be more productive, beneficial, and useful to the Filipino people. “Kabayanihan” (Valor) reminds us that we must live our lives to the fullest even in the face of death when Marines are ready to offer their lives in the name of a mission’s success. Finally, “Karangalan” (Honor) is embedded in all aspects of training in the Corps. We always have a perception that we must do everything in the name of “Karangalan.” The members of the Philippine Marine Corps at all times challenge their minds to excel in all aspects of life. This is demonstrated even in sports competitions such as the inter-branch of service of the AFP Olympic Games, international relationship games during “Balikatan” and “Kamandag” or national sports competition. Also, in winning the hearts of the people during our field duties, the Marines are known as “Tikal” in such a way that we can do everything for the love of the country and people because we are the “Representative of the Best in Soldierly.”

When the author deployed in Sulu, he managed to converse with the people of “Lupah Sug” (Sulu), who rarely spoke with the Marines. They told us that they always hear the word “Tikal” which is equivalent to a member of the Philippine Marine Corps. The author confirmed that we are known by that word because we always find ways to accomplish our tasks and missions by helping the community in any means a Marine can. He added that we are challenged to prove to the people that a Marine deserves to be called one.

In one community project in Parang, Sulu, the Marines were tasked to do a water irrigation project with the Liaison Coordination Element of the US Special Forces. One challenge was the deep well water with a motor project. The project location is in the camp of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Brgy Lagasan Higad. The Special Operation Platoons (SOP) was tasked to go inside the area of the MNLF, which has a long history of conflict with the military. Despite the risks, the SOPs stayed there for almost two months to build the project and to complete the mission of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-4, aside from the urge to prove the word “Tikal.” According to Cpt. Emmanuel Caro PN(M), a genuine “Ilonggo” and also a classmate of the author from NCSC CL 89 and MOBC CL 27 said, “Tikal is already embedded in each member of the Philippine Marine Corps a forever loan for free because we strive for the best in the name of the Philippine Marine Corps.”

Finally, the only authorized military to be known by the quote, “tell it to the Marines,” that has been passed on to generations. According to the history of “tell it to the Marines” during the medieval age in Europe, the only people that traveled to the other side of the world were the Navy and Marines, and on every island that these voyagers go, they would discover and learn new cultures from different tribes, a new species of plants, and animals. The people usually go down on those islands where the Marines are, and if the people want to share any of their discoveries, they always say, “Tell it to the Marines.” This quote has been famous for the past centuries and has been interpreted

differently depending on the situation of each country.

For almost five decades of existence, the Philippine Marine Corps fought all kinds of battles, helped avert several crises, and supported disaster responses across the country. The Filipino people want the Philippine Marine Corps to be assigned to their places since they know that the Marines work hard for peace and development in their areas of operation. Being the force in readiness, the Marines are known to be the first responders. That is why the quote, “tell it to the Marines”, has been embedded in the Corps because there is no battle, crisis, or disaster where the Marines are not on site.

During the Marawi Siege in 2017, this author was the Director of The Special Operations and Scout Sniper School (TSOSSS) of the Marine Corps Force Development Center (MCFDC). The Superintendent of the MCFDC was then Col. Ariel R. Caculitan PN(M), and the unit was tasked to be the Brigade Headquarters of the Philippine Marine Ready Force (PMRF) to be deployed in Marawi. But because of the threat of possible diversionary tactics of the ASG and the Maute group, the MCFDC was not allowed to be deployed since it is the unit tasked if a siege in Luzon, specifically in Metro Manila, takes place. Col. Caculitan PN(M) asked the members of the MCFDC who wanted to volunteer to be deployed in Marawi City. The volunteers would support fellow Marines who were already in the area because the General Headquarters (GHQ) already ordered Marine forces to be in the area as soon as possible. The Marine Brigade from Tawi-Tawi was immediately deployed in Marawi City. The author and ten other Enlisted Personnel, who were Sniper Instructors, eagerly volunteered to be deployed in Marawi City especially when one of the Sniper Instructors who taught and trained sniper students along with the instructor of The Special Operations and Scout Sniper Scout (TSOSSS), the late Tsgt. Aldin Dinglasan PN(M), was killed in action in the first week of their deployment and the rest was history. Again, the Marines were at the scene of the Marawi Siege and contributed in one way or another to the overall accomplishment of the AFP mission.

In conclusion, the Philippine Marine Corps has always had the privilege to serve our country and people. I have discussed the mindset of an indispensable human being, the privilege of being a “Tikal” and the only authorized military known by the “Tell it to the Marines” quote that has been passed on to generations as the “priceless bonus” of being a Marine. The Corps has grown as a unit from a company size up to four Brigades in the current organization. We are proud to say that the Filipino people favor a Marine unit in their area either during peacetime like elections, fiestas, programs, and disaster responses or during the wartime siege, rebellion, and the like. Marines are already fulfilled when they hear a priceless comment of “THANKS” from the people they serve. The life of a Marine is challenging in all aspects of existence, but the hardships in training and bloodshed in the battlefield are light and normal to all the members of the Philippine Marine Corps because they know that the Filipino people believe in them. For all the sacrifices in the service, the Philippine Marine Corps always upholds the motto of “Karangalan, Katungkulan, and Kabayanihan.”



Extending the Horizon Beyond the PMC Garrison Wall through Pastoral Visitations

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Among the many idioms attributed to Benjamin Franklin, this phrase stands out as a timely reminder of the Office of the Command Chaplain, Philippine Marine Corps in the execution of its mission. It has been observed that the Philippine Marines in the operational areas, especially those who brought with them the invisible wounds of war, have been exposed to adverse potentially traumatic events (PTEs) leading to a risk of acquiring depression, which is also associated with various work related problems, interpersonal, and familial conflicts. Such is indeed a life-altering one that needs an intervention to help prevent the development of adverse and unmanageable sequel to combat and operational stress reactions.

In addressing the aforementioned observations, the Office of the Command Chaplain, PMC is conducting a counseling seminar-workshop in every PMC unit from the Marine Brigade down to Battalion Company CPs. The purpose of the seminar-workshop is to empower the Marine

officers and senior NCOs down to the detachment level to assist the Office of the Command Chaplain in helping troops navigate stressful issues or difficult life situations. Such endeavor encourages the troops in giving assistance or support to one another to overcome life's adversities and develop resilience that will prevent the development of PTSD, depression, and even the occurrence of suicidal tendencies. The Command Chaplain believes that by just sitting empty-handed actively listening to his fellow Marines, one is already helping his fellow Marine by giving a source of strength and support.

Through troop empowerment, a senior NCO is given the privilege to guide and counsel his fellow Marines. This also helps them clear their horizons and achieve their aspirations in the service of the people, the Corps, and the Philippine Navy with the help of the bountiful grace and blessings of the Almighty God.

MAJ ISIDRO JOIE U BALISTOY CHS, Command Chaplain, Philippine Marine Corps



“Small but Sure” Steps to KBU

Key Budgetary Unit (KBU) is an organizational unit under the Armed Forces of the Philippines with distinct and separate budgetary allocations in the General Appropriations Act.¹ For the year 2020, when you hear Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) personnel having discussions regarding the PMC as KBU, the word “birth pains” is always uttered. This article will present the key events and efforts of the Marine Corps command team and the staff since the marching order was given to the Corps to start the preparation to achieve another milestone in the Corps’ history to be a KBU.

So much have been said and done but the concrete effort started when legislative measures to separate the PMC from the Navy have for the meantime been shelved. Instead, the PMC was given a KBU status, which made it directly under the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) effective fiscal year 2020.² Like a machine with so many rotating parts grinding in unison, the staff conducted a series of coordinating conferences and coordination with other government offices and higher headquarters involved in the processing of documents required by DBM.

On May 17, 2018, the Secretary of National Defense (SND) approved the recommendation of the Chief of Staff, AFP for the PMC to become a KBU.³ This approval triggered a series of meetings at Headquarters Philippine Navy (HPN), General Headquarters (GHQ), Department of National Defense (DND), DBM, and other agencies involved in conceptualizing the transformation. Furthermore, it was stipulated in the General Instruction of Defense Planning Guidance CY 2020-2025 that the DND shall expedite the transformation of PMC to KBU.⁴ From there, significant activities were conducted to comply with requirements given by DND.



PMC personnel on OJT

In October 2018, the command submitted the PMC Table of Organization as KBU. The proposed 2019 KBU budgetary requirements and requests for additional Civilian Human Resource (CHR) were subsequently submitted for approval by the FOIC, PN. During this time, the fill-up of CHR plantilla positions was at 93%. This was a significant achievement, which indicates that the Corps is ready to recruit an additional 31 CHR once approved by DBM. By December 2018, PMC started capacitating its personnel by sending them to different PN units’ Management and Fiscal Office (MFO) for an OJT on financial transactions.

On January 07, 2019, the Office of the Financial Management was activated to spearhead the requirements for the determination of and preparation for the implementation of the KBU. The PMC Office of Financial Management will manage the utilization of its funds separate from the HPN.⁵ This was followed by the request for an authority for the Commandant, PMC to be designated as Head of Procuring Entity (HoPE).

With regard to training, personnel were sent to undergo the Public Procurement Specialist Course at Pamantasang Lungsod ng Maynila. The command also conducted a series of seminars to continuously equip its personnel who will be involved in financial and logistics transactions crucial in the implementation of the KBU. These seminars for Program Directors, Budget and Finance Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers include Foreign Military Sales, Defense System of Management, and Financial Management. To highlight the training, lecturers from the DBM, Commission on Audit and the Office of the Navy Financial Management were invited.

Personnel were also sent to undergo AFP Financial Management Course Class 24-2019 at GHQ, PN Financial and Logistics Workshop and to undergo OJT in various PN offices and units such as Field Accounting Service Unit, Procurement Center, Finance Service Unit, and Logistics Center. The Senior Officers Procurement Seminar was conducted for unit commanders, executive officers, and readiness coordinators. The objective of this seminar was to enhance the knowledge of the potential members of the Bids and Awards Committee and technical working groups of different commodity managers. Selected personnel were also sent to attend the Philippine Association for Government Budget Administration seminar and meeting in Bacolod City and the Association of Government Internal Auditor Annual Convention in Cebu City.⁶



Convening of the PN TWG for PMC transition to KBU

In May 2019, the PN Technical Working Group for PMC transition to KBU was created. The TWG subsequently convened to plan, coordinate, and monitor the submission of requirements, identify units and offices that need to be activated and identify training requirements of personnel who will be assigned to units and offices related to KBU with corresponding timelines.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte formally approved the SND's recommendation that the PMC will become KBU of the PN on September 10, 2019.⁷ With the KBU at hand, PMC conducted series of information drives to different PMC units regarding the initiatives of the command and the implications of being a KBU in the daily operations and activities of the Corps.



Activation of PMSCS and MFO of Hqs Bn and MBAA

On October 01, 2019, to enhance the support and sustainment of deployed Marine Operating Forces, the Management and Fiscal Offices (MFO) of Headquarters Battalion (HqBn) and Marine Base Arturo Asuncion (MBAA) and the PMC Supply Center were activated. To

test the readiness of the command to implement the KBU, a series of budget and fiscal transactions simulation at MFO level was conducted in Marine Base Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and MBAA in Zamboanga City.

By virtue of DND Circular No. 4 dated March 18, 2020, the CPMC was designated as HoPE subject to limitations and authority delegated by the SND. The authority further allows PMC to create its own Bids and Awards Committee.⁸

The Central Payroll Management Unit (CPMU) and the Disbursement and Remittance Unit (DRU) of HqsBn were activated on June 12, 2020. The CPMU will process and generate pay and allowances, supplementary, and collateral claims payroll of personnel. The DRU will implement policies, rules and regulations governing disbursement of PMC Personal Services funds.

Currently, the implementation of KBU is going on smoothly. However, birth pains were indeed felt due to some unforeseen requirements and existing challenges. The activation of unit and offices in relation to KBU without an increase in the Authorized Troop Strength (ATS) required the reassignment of personnel from existing units. This scheme resulted to the decrease in personnel readiness of deployed units. Delays in subsistence allowance and other sustainment fund support were experienced due to the need for the designation of new Fund Accountable Officers.

The PMC so far has made a remarkable take off in the implementation of KBU. A lot of man hours were spent to achieve its present status. However, there is no reason to rest in its laurels considering the challenges that still lie ahead. The management of Petroleum Oil and Lubricants (POL), munitions, 72-100 supplies and Combat Clothing and Individual Equipment needs a forward supply depot and POL dump for economical and practical delivery of support and sustainment to deployed Marine Operating Forces.

The establishment of the PMC Finance Center will also require personnel and facilities that need to be programmed. The transfer of the PMC headquarters in Morong, Bataan will give the command its own hospital. This will require changes in the PMC TO incorporating health practitioners and management of health services funds. These challenges will be met head-on by Marines with the firm resolve to bring the Corps to its full status as KBU.

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COL JIMMY D LARIDA PN(M)(GSC), Chief of Staff, Philippine Marine Corps



UNITY in DIVERSITY- Converting weakness into strength

Modernizing the mindset of interoperability through Staff to Staff Talks

As the Philippine Navy (PN) is gearing towards a highly modernized multi-capable force for archipelagic defense, the capabilities of the Fleet-Marine Forces are among the primary contributors to achieving the vision of Navy 2028: Modern and Multi-Capable. These increase the potency of the Fleet-Marine Forces towards accomplishing various types of military operations as the PN's contribution to the joint forces.

Major General Nathaniel Y Casem PN(M), Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) hosted the

visit of Rear Admiral Loumer P. Bernabe PN, Commander, Philippine Fleet (PF) during the Philippine Marine Corps-Philippine Fleet (PMC-PF) Staff to Staff Talks held last September 28, 2020.

The PMC-PF Staff to Staff Talks, a yearly engagement between the two type commands, aims to address the shortfalls and matters of common interest in order to strengthen interoperability and synchronize plans, programs, operations, and activities that are mutually beneficial.

PMC-PF Staff to Staff Talks LOEs

LOE # 1 Fleet-Marine Operations	It aims to degrade the cohesion of the adversary's force and to shatter its operational center of gravity by employing Fleet-Marine collaboration in Amphibious Operations, Littoral Maneuvers, Naval Fire Support Operations (Artillery, CAS, NSFS) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Operations.
LOE # 2 Special Operations	It focuses on the unique modes of employment, tactics, techniques, procedures, and equipment.
LOE # 3 Strategic Communication	It focuses primarily on the enhancement of themes and messages regarding the effectiveness, relevance and advantages of fleet-marine operations in terms of territorial defense and other non-traditional mandates.
LOE # 4 Reserve Force Integration	It includes training and other related activities that aim to set conditions for the seamless integration of naval reservists into the regular force that will help achieve the total defense concept.
LOE # 5 C4ISTAR	It aims to provide an information infrastructure for the command and control of a full range of naval and maritime operations utilizing the Fleet-Marine forces.
LOE # 6 Fleet-Marine Logistics Support System	It enables the PF and PMC to jointly explore on the betterment of a locality from which Fleet-Marine Operations are projected or supported.
LOE # 7 Intelligence	It aims to integrate Fleet-Marine all source information collection capabilities and synchronize intelligence collection management in support of the conduct of joint operations through shared capabilities.
LOE # 8 Leadership Development	It aims to promote good Governance and Professionalism in the organization by establishing the Human Resource and Leadership Development.



The establishment of the PMC – Naval Sea Systems Command (PMC-NSSC) Staff to Staff Talks on the other hand is envisioned to harmonize areas of collaboration between the PMC and the NSSC to synchronize plans, programs, operations, and activities that are mutually beneficial. Rear Admiral Rommel Jason L. Galang PN visited Headquarters, PMC during the PMC-NSSC Staff to Staff Talks last September 04, 2020, which highlighted the signing of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the PMC-NSSC Staff to Staff Talks.

The said TOR institutionalizes the establishment of the Executive Committee chaired by the Chiefs of Staff of PMC and NSSC and the Working Committees. Lines of effort were identified in the TOR, which aims to harmonize multiple tasks and functions to establish conditions for better collaboration.

Indeed, as BGEN Eugenio V. Hernandez PN(M), Deputy Commandant, PMC anticipated the disparate tasks of the PMC, PF, and NSSC, he said these can be bonded through the “unified and executable plans” that were formed through the Staff to Staff Talks. Envisioning stronger systems of cooperation, collaboration, and integration between PMC and PF and between PMC and NSSC makes the job lighter and truly worthy. In his

welcome remarks, BGEN Hernandez PN(M) emphasized that the engagement with PF and NSSC gave the PMC a great opportunity to practice unity in diversity-converting what is perceived by others as weakness. Using lessons gleaned from our different experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds, these activities endeavor to build unified and executable plans to help attain the mission of the Philippine Navy.

Rear Admiral Bernabe PN, in his closing remarks, discussed the importance of “modernizing the mindset” of PMC and PF personnel and ensuring interoperability between the two commands.

Rear Admiral Galang PN, meanwhile, expressed his gratitude to the PMC and reiterated that as leaders, they have only planted the seeds and it is up to the officers to continue what has been started. He is hoping to elevate the activity into a Collaborative Meeting in the future to engage other PN Senior Leaders.

In his closing statement for both Staff to Staff Talks, Major General Casem PN(M) commended the different working committees/groups for a job well done and for coming up with the activities aligned with the LOEs and further expressed his gratitude to both PF and NSSC.

PMC-NSSC Staff to Staff Talks LOEs

LOE # 1 Plans and Policy	This line of effort aims to conduct collaboration to synchronize the policies, plans, programs of PMC and NSSC in areas of common interest.
LOE # 2 Personnel Management	Focuses in process, procedures and requirements regarding assignment or training of PMC personnel at NSSC and NSSC personnel at PMC.
LOE # 3 Training Systems Development	It aims to adapt training system, facilities, faculties, and curriculum to accommodate PMC training requirements and include PMC personnel in trainings conducted by NSSC.
LOE # 4 Hull Machinery Electrical (HME) Projects and Repair Implementation	It aims to explore possible areas of support for the Depot Level Repair-Major (DLM) / Intermediate Level Maintenance (ILM), and Material, Inspection, Test and Survey (INSURV) of HME equipment of PMC assets and facilitate the efficient management of HME repair and maintenance requirements.
LOE # 5 Weapons, Communications and Electronics (WCE) Projects and Repair Implementation	It aims to explore possible areas of support for the DLM/ILM, and INSURV of WCE equipment of PMC assets and facilitate the efficient management of WCE repair and maintenance requirements.



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Nurturing a National Strategic Mindset: A Phase-Zero Centric Archipelagic Defense

The Philippines can be a great maritime country. It may be from the lack of this consciousness that we have yet to summon the collective will to meet the challenges or appreciate the natural advantages facing the country as an archipelagic state.

With the West Philippine Sea, the Philippine Rise to the East, and the Luzon and Sibutu Straits as major access lanes, bestowed upon us is a natural role as gatekeepers of the Pacific, and island sentinels of the Western soup bowl – the Spratly. However, we need to build upon our mindsets as part of this imperative strategic culture.

Our maritime domain has always influenced history. Our diverse population is marked by the coming of migrants from the sea over the centuries. Local labor built and sailed the galleons that brought the first globalization of international trade. Today, Filipino seamen man ocean-going vessels, seen by their great numbers and reputation for competence and industry. These latent potentials foretell that the Philippines can be a great maritime country and that we Filipinos can express this latent mindset when it translates to a whole of nation defense commitment.



The Philippines is unique among archipelagos for the closeness and compactness with which its islands, islets, and other marine features are grouped together. This natural design creates no less than 32 sea lanes and 14 major bays, all for the nation's taking.

The implications are so profound to marine navigation and global security. Key to developing this is educating every Filipino about the whats and the whys. Considering how vitally the oceans affect the lives of Filipinos, archipelagic consciousness needs to be inculcated in the formative years and education of our youth for them to develop the instinct and live in a future with nationalist Filipino maritime leaders and citizens. From a maritime mindset, strategic vision will grow.

As maritime gatekeepers and sentinels, we should be interested in the development of international oceans law and policy and concerned with maritime governance, marine environmental protection, and marine resource conservation. Such a mindset will stage us in a long-haul advantageous position. The regime of the archipelagic

states in UNCLOS Part IV leaves many issues and concerns on national legislation, implementing, and regulating instrumentalities. Among them is the duty to allow the right of archipelagic sea lanes passage for foreign vessels as regards freedom of navigation and protecting the delicate regional marine environment, biodiversity, and fisheries. Key to all this is a deliberate build-up and integration of education to evolving maritime policies and defense concerns.

Apart from the wealth of natural resources on and under its land, the Philippine archipelago harbors the highest marine biodiversity in the world and consequently the highest number of undiscovered and understudied marine flora and fauna. Food security concerns alone can be independent long-term agro-fisheries undertaking to feed 120 million Filipinos. The profound impact on marine biochemistry and medicine has barely been tapped. Key to this is a securitized maritime R&D program and a pragmatic mindset.

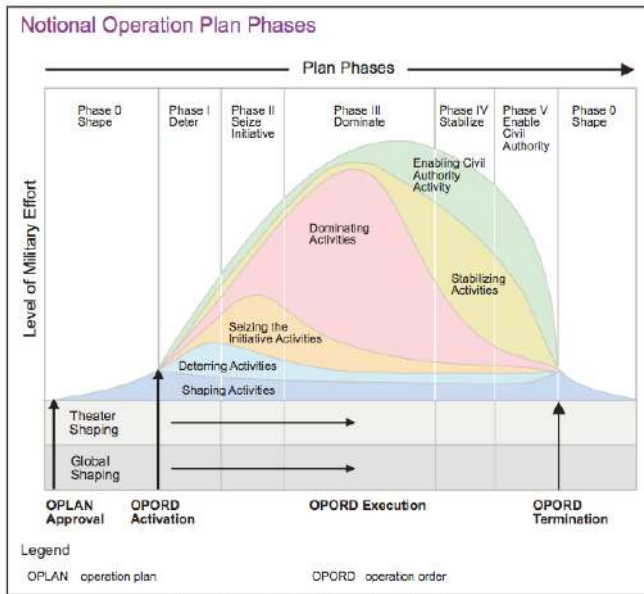
Table 1: Countries in and adjacent to the Pacific Arc—Land Area and Size of EEZ

Country	Land Area (sq km)	Size of EEZ (sq km)	Approx Ratio (Land/Water)
Australia	7,690,000	10,710,000	1 : 1.4
Cook Islands	240	1,989,000	1 : 8,300
FSM	701	2,900,000	1 : 4,150
Fiji	18,272	1,338,000	1 : 73
Indonesia	1,904,569	5,409,981	1 : 3
Kiribati	684	3,540,000	1 : 5,175
Marshall Islands	181	2,131,000	1 : 11,735
Nauru	21	320,000	1 : 15,238
Niue	258	390,000	1 : 1,512
Palau	508	629,000	1 : 1,238
Papua New Guinea	162,243	3,120,000	1 : 19
Philippines	300,000	1,891,247	1 : 6
Samoa	2,935	131,000	1 : 45
Solomon Islands	28,530	1,340,000	1 : 47
Timor-Leste	14,874	101,259	1 : 7
Tonga	699	720,000	1 : 1,030
Tuvalu	26	725,000	1 : 27,885
Vanuatu	11,880	680,000	1 : 57

The Philippine archipelago is situated within enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, within the Coral Triangle, in what is considered by the International Maritime Organization as a Particularly Sensitive Area. The Philippines must inherently and by its maritime interests be a regional champion and protector of the global commons. A strategic role by default. Key to this is a robust ISR capability that shall provide accurate and undeniable movements and activities.

Social media has now opened the gateways for a global appreciation of the great treasure in tourist attractions that lie along, within, and around the extensive coastlines of the country, with 7,641 islands for the picking, including the most beautiful beaches in the world. Likewise, the cultural diversity that is a natural consequence of our archipelago can be an advantage if our diverse cultures are brought into synergy stimulating creativity and innovation by interconnecting transportation and communication. Thus, security experts have suggested the importance of unifying physical and non-tangible infrastructures that make

archipelagos particularly resilient to evolving challenges. The key to this is an integrated strategic plan with a strong maritime flavor.



Developing the mindset is the biggest chunk of our Phase Zero actions. After all, we are aiming for a whole nation's effort to territorial defense. Political and military leaders must conceptualize Phase Zero operations more broadly than simply shaping the pre-conflict battle zone; rather, these operations should be perceived as a complex, long-term, grand preventive strategy that buys us more time. Second, AFP planners should seek indicators for potential leverage points that help senior military leaders make educated, efficient, ethical, and effective decisions regarding the use of AFP assets. These efforts may not be an assured COA to prevent conflict, but they should reduce the number of complications and preserve our resources for when the real-time comes and when they are needed most. Such an activity requires a coherent vision that maps out how to move from the present situation toward a desired future environment.

There must be two fundamental dimensions to Philippine strategic thinking about Archipelagic Defense. Both point to the basic importance of the nation adopting a maritime strategy for ensuring its own security and the stability of its surrounding regions.

Considering the current conditions, if we want to push and educate for a concept of Philippine Strategic Defense anchored on Archipelagic Defense, then we can concentrate first on our unilateral defense concept as a strategic level operational concept. The reason for this is two-fold: (1) alignment with our current Independent Defense Policy and (2) foreign influence is temporarily muted to a degree where we can achieve the shaping actions and establish the foundations for a genuine nationalistic maritime strategy.

Alongside this is the need for the AFP to get a firm grasp of the Archipelagic Defense concept of the US as deterrence against China's expansion and defense-in-depth on the first and second island chains. The Archipelagic Concept of US leverages on allies like Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines as primary anvil (triangle of defense)



that will stop the threat nation's expansion using the coastal defense of the islands and surrounding waters. This will prepare us for a "plug and play" alliance scenario while ensuring that our national interest takes the stage. Using the coastal defense of the islands and surrounding waters of the archipelago as staging areas, we can forward deploy unilateral and later combined forces capable of implementing the multi-domain operations and the Joint Operational Access Concept (JOAS) against the Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) of China.



The National Defense Strategy must put GHQ and DND on a path to make the appropriate adjustments to the defense development program to employ our limited resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. This can be achieved via a robust Phase Zero Phase and a minimum credible A2/AD build-up that imposes costs on the PLAN presence in the WPS using minimal gas turbine propulsion and jet A-1 expenditures for starters.

The Marine Corps Operating Concept (MCO) defines the Marine Operating Forces (MOF) as a mission-tailored, scalable, and adaptable seaborne force with ready capabilities of conducting seaborne and sustained maneuvers ashore, operating as the ground combat instrument of naval power, a major capability added to the AFP. As ground forces based along the island chain, the MOF must be armed with shore-based mobile missile launchers and anti-air cruise missiles to perform cross-domain actions with the joint services. Marine forces, dug in and camouflaged on the islands, can provide the backbone

of the defense, enabling far more mobile air and maritime forces to serve as the principal operational reserve – the “counter-concentration” force.

Being positioned along the 1st Island Chain, the Philippines must emphasize cross-domain missions. Land-based air and missile defense forces focus on disrupting the threat from establishing air/naval superiority. Coastal defense – Philippine Marine Corps shore-based anti-ship cruise missiles – work with the AFP integrated missile defense system on denying the threat’s intent to establish sea control, while mines, submarines, electronic warfare,

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and cyber systems as major capability gaps must be seriously considered and combined to constitute a line of A2/AD defense, much like what the threat nation wants to achieve against us. We should heed Sun Tzu’s maxim, “What is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy’s strategy.”

Meantime, Filipinos need to summon the will to satisfactorily and adequately meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities facing the country as an archipelagic state and everything starts from phase zero with a maritime mindset.



COL ROMULO D QUEMADO II PN(M)(GSC), Commander, Coastal Defense Regiment

Philippine Marine Corps Shore-Based Missile System and its Role in Coastal Defense Operation

By: Coastal Defense Regiment

Coastal Defense or coastal fortification consists of measures taken to provide protection against military attack at or near a coastline (or other shorelines), e.g., fortifications and coastal artillery. Because an invading enemy normally requires a port or harbor to sustain operations, such defenses are usually concentrated around such facilities or places where such facilities could be constructed. As stated in the US Field Manual 31-isr10, “Coastal Defense, as defined in its broadest sense, includes all measures taken to provide the protection against any form of attack at or near the shoreline as well as within the combat zone, immediately in the rear thereof.”

In Philippine history, coastal defense operation existed as early as the pre-colonial era with notable accounts during the Battle of Mactan (1521) when Chieftain Lapu-Lapu defended the Island of Mactan against the invading forces of Ferdinand Magellan and the Battle of Balanguingui (1848) when Moro pirates defended an amphibious attack by the Spanish Navy.



Coastal defense operations significantly changed throughout time. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was completely oriented toward internal security operations and counterinsurgency efforts across the country for much of our history while our country’s external defense has been largely reliant on its mutual defense treaty with the United States.

With the evolving threat environment, the AFP is steadfast in its endeavor to meet the challenges as it approached to operationalize our country’s coastal missile defense system. The Philippine Navy, as the protector of the seas, had prioritized various missile system projects as part of the AFP Modernization Program that aims to support the requirements in strengthening the coastal defense system. These include the missile system projects

of the Philippine Marine Corps, which will be under the newly activated Coastal Defense Regiment with COL ROMULO D QUEMADO II PN(M)(GSC) as its commander. The regiment will have units equipped with anti-ship and air defense missile system capable of detecting, surveying, and destroying hostile targets within the country's bounds.

Strategic Value

As stated in the 2019 Missile Defense Review (MDR), "Missile defense system is an essential component of a country's national security and defense strategies. It contributes to the deterrence of adversary aggression and the assurance of allies and partners." Knowing that a country has a strong missile defense system is one example of deterrence by denial. Having a missile system in a defensive posture does not necessarily mean a statement of wanting to go to war or provoking neighbors; it simply strengthens the effects of deterrence and the country's resolve in protecting its sovereignty.

The Philippines as an archipelagic country should have mobile coastal defense with long-range anti-ship missiles that are protected by air defense to adequately defend and assert its maritime claims in the region. Although many would hope that it will not be put to use for such situations, its sole existence provides our country the influence to enter into mutual agreements wherein neighboring countries see the Philippines in a position of having the strength of its own rather than remain reliant on foreign powers.

The CDR will form part of the concept of sea denial when the Philippine Navy formulated its very own Active Archipelagic Defense Strategy (AADS). It articulates on a coastal defense that is built on shore-based missile firepower support within the country's chokepoints, critical coastal approaches, and island defense. Upon its full operation, the activation of CDR intends to address Territorial Defense Mission Area, with primary capability for a coastal defense that seeks to provide shore-based anti-surface and anti-air fires. In creating CDR and its corresponding capabilities, a range of threats from air and surface environment was considered to be addressed. Convergences of these threats are generally observed to be present on the artificial islands within and around the Philippines EEZ. The basic concept of operation of CDR calls for a shore-based anti-ship and air defense systems batteries to provide land-based fires against an enemy surface and air targets that are approaching within the coastal areas.

In selecting missile ranges, the EEZ reach of 200nm was considered but was constrained by missile control regime requirements that limit cruise missile range to less than 300 km. A potential hostile ship has cruise missile capability for 300km.

Potential cruise missile attacks from the surface, air, and island platforms within our EEZ could reach the country's territory within eight minutes and can practically

deliver destruction of our key infrastructures, government, and population centers. Defending against this perceived threat would require a capability to intercept the cruise missile and also to directly attack its source platform or island operating base within our EEZ. The CDR's shore-based anti-ship missile system (SBASMS) is generally long-range, enough to provide fires within EEZ, at supersonic speed, and adequate explosive weight to destroy a surface target. It should be able to detect, track, and engage designated targets at sea, and be able to strike enemy island areas within EEZ. These capabilities offered by CDR are guided accordingly by the PN Missile Defense System Doctrine. As part of naval and joint operations in the maritime environment, the shore-based missile system supports the need to provide deterrence, protection, and surveillance of Philippine maritime areas.



CDR Logo Symbolism:

The Circular Shape was inspired by the Olden Traditional Tausug Shield, a prominent ethnicity from the Southern Philippines. The SPEARHEAD manifests a Spear, a weapon that has a long reach. It was taken from the traditional spear of the Igorot, a prominent ethnicity from the Northern Philippines. The MARINE EMBLEM signifies the Type Command that the unit belongs to. CROSSED MISSILES symbolize the Primary Strike/ Interdiction capability of the unit. The LIGHTNING signifies Speed, Surprise, and Combat Power. The WAVES manifest the Coastal Areas and Sea Lanes to which the unit is called to protect. The SPIKES IN CIRCULAR FORM signify the 32 Sea Lanes of the Philippines. The CONCENTRIC RINGS symbolize the concept of Defense in Depth. The TWO STARS manifest Balanced Actions of the unit and its effects of Deterrence and Destruction. The COLOR Red represents the Marine Blood and Strength, Black for Stealth and Mystery, Gold for Wisdom, and Gray for Maturity and Reliability.

MARINE OPERATING FORCES' ROLES FOR ARCHIPELAGIC DEFENSE

Extracted from PMCCDS

Why the need for Archipelagic Defense?

The Philippines has experienced a relative period of peace and prosperity brought about by its aggressive efforts for political and socio-economic stability. However, despite the headway, it continues to confront various security issues that impede its full economic potential.

The country's location has a geopolitical implication to China's rising revisionist power, whose territorial claims comprise of those states along the first island chain such as Taiwan, much of the South China Sea (SCS) that includes the West Philippine Sea (WPS), and the Senkaku Islands. China is biding time, gradually shifting the balance of power in the region through its reclamation activities for military use, and acts of low-level, ambiguous "gray zone" aggression.¹ Its increasing military posture in WPS continues to challenge the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also threatens to exhaust the country's vast maritime resources.

The country's long porous borders and fragmented geography expose it to various illegal maritime activities. Domestically, the country is still troubled by various anti-government groups. Likewise, being located at the Pacific Ring of Fire, exacerbated by the effects of climate change, the country is vulnerable to natural and human-induced disasters. Cyber threat is also a growing concern that undermines the exchange of information and hampers the delivery of basic goods and services.

With all these challenges, the national security is threatened. Archipelagic defense calls for a collective effort from all sectors of society to defeat the adversary and preserve the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the regional context, archipelagic defense also calls for cooperation from all partner nations to synergize efforts to preserve peace and stability in the region.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) being the primary protector of the people and the state, has come up with the National Military Strategy (NMS) to lay down military approaches to address the various security threats abovementioned, aligned with higher security policies and strategies. Noteworthy is the shift of focus from internal to external defense, thus establishing a **credible archipelagic defense posture** now becomes the priority. In effect, the defense department's capability development efforts are

geared towards modernizing its maritime and air defense to secure strategic maritime interests crucial to preserving the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Philippine Navy (PN), as the primary responsible for naval defense, has been advocating its Active Archipelagic Defense Strategy (AADS) since 2013 to set the foundation for credible archipelagic defense. It is reinforced by the Naval Operating Concept (NOC) describing in details the maritime defense approaches as well as the roles of the Marines.

Given these imperatives, the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) has been doing parallel efforts in increasing its readiness for its current and emerging roles. The Corps has set its new waypoints on how to navigate its organizational development as stipulated in the PMC Roadmap 2028 (Beachhead). Likewise, the Corps has institutionalized its warfighting concepts through the Marine Corps Operating Concept (MCOC) consistent with the NMS, AADS, and NOC. The nation requires a rapid and hard-hitting amphibious force that provides the naval and joint forces a broad range of maneuver options to overwhelm the adversaries with complexity and unpredictability.

Operating Environment

The MOF in general does not have a domain as its primary responsibility but operates as the ground combat instrument of naval power for sea control and denial, maritime force projection, and supports other land-based joint operations. The common operating landscape in support to naval and joint operations is the littorals. Littoral areas are described as the coastal areas and that portion of the land that is susceptible to influence or support from the land and from the sea. This area is converged by two segments, which are the seaward portion – the area from the shore to the open sea, and the landward portion – the area inland from the shore.²

Littorals are critically important because the majority of the local government capitals and sprawling urban centers are located in these areas. Likewise, all seaborne trade would start and end there.³ Hence, conflicts or threats in these areas could affect the government's political stability and undermine its developmental activities.

When operating in the littorals, it requires suitable and diverse platforms, weapons, and sensors; robust command organization; close cooperation among friendly forces; air superiority; well-developed theory; and sound doctrine.⁴ Therefore, the MOFs, to be more successful with its missions, should not only invest on how to operate the modern military hardware but more importantly, it should enhance its interoperability with the fleet forces and other maritime agencies, whose functions are also performed on the same areas, and with other major services. They should have the same understanding and appreciation of the characteristics of this part of the maritime zone, backed-up with common or complementing doctrines.

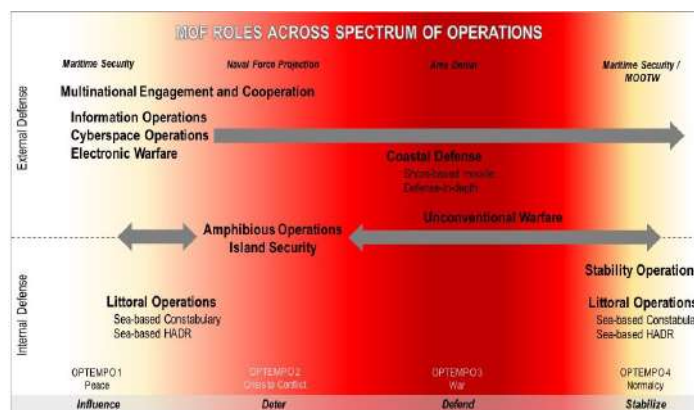
Given the importance of the littorals, the MOFs can particularly focus on the sea lines of communication (SLOC) or chokepoints. These straits or narrow areas are the keys to controlling naval and commercial shipping movements from and to enclosed or semi-enclosed-sea theaters.⁵ The MOFs can establish presence or influence in the land areas of these critical routes and perform their tasks to support the maritime security and sea control and denial operations of the fleet forces. Controlling the SLOCs is also one of the lines of effort of the AFP Territorial Defense Plan “Kalasag”.

MOF Roles for Archipelagic Defense

The operating concepts at the joint and navy level enabled the Corps to lay down a clearer picture of the MOF's roles in the naval and joint operating environment for archipelagic defense particularly in maritime security, naval force projection/amphibious maneuver, and area denial. Given the importance of the SLOCs, it becomes imperative for the Corps to refocus the deployment of the MOFs in these strategic areas. Security issues common in the different SLOCs were identified such as intrusion, terrorism, insurgency, smuggling, piracy, natural and human-induced disasters, cyber-attack, and information warfare. Corresponding MOF roles based on the NOC were listed down to address respective SLOC issues. These roles were translated further to more specific tasks based on the MCOC.

The Influence-Deter-Defend (IDD) strategic approaches in the NMS were used to lay-down purposely its roles aligned with the naval operational approaches. “Influence to shape the operating environment” is to cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate with stakeholders to set conditions for the military to effectively react through the use or threat use of force. “Deter to prevent conflict or war” can be realized through a credible armed force capable of securing the state's territorial integrity and sovereignty. While “Defend to Win” employs strategic flexibility that is the ability to rapidly shift and concentrate or disperse forces for different roles/missions or to areas wherever and whenever needed. To complete the spectrum of operation, MOF roles were also defined during post-conflict or during stabilize phase.

Hence, the MOF shall perform the following roles for archipelagic defense across the spectrum of operation: Information Operation, **Cyberspace Operation**, **Electronic Warfare**, and **Multinational Engagement and Cooperation** for roles to influence the operating



environment; Littoral operations, Amphibious Operation and Island Security for roles to deter war; and Coastal Defense and Unconventional Warfare for roles to defend against all threats. After the war or conflict, MOF shall perform Stability Operation to set conditions for the restoration of law and order and governance. They shall also resume performing a littoral operation to support maritime security.

Roles to Influence

The MOF shall perform roles to influence the operating environment. These are information operation, cyberspace operation, electronic warfare, and multinational engagement and cooperation. These roles shall be performed across operational defense mission (internal and external defense) and operational conditions (OPTEMPOs 1 to 4).

Information Operation

The MOF conducts information operation (IO) to influence perceptions, attitudes, and other elements that drive desired behaviors and to support the commander's decision-making. The MOF reinforces the conduct of its roles leveraging on information coming from different information related capabilities (IRCs) and activities such as key leader engagements, civil-military operations, and deception activities.⁶

Cyberspace Operation

Cyberspace operation is the employment of a combination of technologies, sensors, information, and weapons to achieve the operational objectives in and through cyberspace as well as the air, sea, and land domains.⁷ The Corps shall perform Offensive Cyber Operations (OCO), Defensive Cyber Operations (DCO), and Information Network Operations (INO) to support the PN Cyber Warfare Operations.

Electronic Warfare

Electronic Warfare (EW) refers to any military action involving the use of electromagnetic or directed energy to control the electromagnetic spectrum (EMS) or to attack the enemy. EW includes electronic attack (EA), electronic protection (EP), and electronic warfare support (ES).⁸ MOF performs EW, specifically EP to secure its communication structure from the enemy's disruption capabilities. Likewise, EA shall also be performed by the MOF to shape the EMS to support its missions and tasks.

Multinational Engagement and Cooperation

The MOF shall perform Multinational Engagement and Cooperation (MEC) by continuously engaging different partner nations through bilateral and multilateral exercises. It shall also continue to conduct security cooperation through participation in peacekeeping operations, humanitarian aid and disaster response (HADR), intel-sharing, and other operations mandated by higher authorities.

Roles to Deter

The MOF performs roles to deter conflict or war, these are littoral operations, amphibious operation, and island security. Littoral Operations are performed during OPTEMPO 1, 2, and 4, while the rest are performed during OPTEMPO 2 and 3.

Littoral Operation

The MOF shall perform littoral operations in support of maritime security. Littoral operations particularly constabulary and HADR operations are conducted through cooperation and collaboration from the maritime security sector, concerned government agencies, and local government units.

Amphibious Operation

The MOF shall perform an amphibious operation for naval force projection. These roles aim to defend the country's interests within its territory to ensure sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Island Security

The MOF shall also perform island security for naval force projection. They shall be forwardly deployed in strategic areas and SLOCs to secure islands and territories and critical infrastructures and facilities.⁹ This role is part of a collective effort from fleet and air forces to ensure success in securing the threatened islands.

Roles to Defend

The MOF performs roles to defend the country from all types of threats. For external defense, the MOF conducts coastal defense and unconventional warfare during OPTEMPO 3 (War), while the MOF roles to deter (littoral operation, amphibious operation, and island security) shall also be considered as "roles to defend" to address internal security threats.

Coastal Defense

Coastal Defense is conducted for area denial. This is part of the area defense when the enemy starts to invade. MOF shall operate its shore-based missile defense system and shall establish defense-in-depth.

Unconventional Warfare

As part of the NOF's area denial operation, the MOF shall perform unconventional warfare in littoral areas to influence the communities in the event of an invasion of key cities.

Roles to Stabilize

The MOF shall perform roles to stabilize and restore law and order and re-establish governance after the war or conflict. These roles shall be performed during OPTEMPO 4.

Stability Operation

Stability operation is the overarching term for various military missions, tasks, and activities to reestablish a safe and secure environment and to provide essential government services.¹⁰ The MOF can support to restore law and order and facilitate the delivery of basic services in the littorals.

Call to Action and Way Ahead

The PMC always strives to be responsive to the demands of the current and future security landscape. For the past years, the MOFs were able to comply and even actually exceeded the expectations of the Unified Commands and the Filipino people as a whole.

Aligned with the NMS, AADS, NOC and MCOC, the Corps has defined the MOF roles to influence, deter, defend, and stabilize, which are executed across the spectrum of operations. Most of these roles are already being performed by the MOF, while its evolving roles are mostly linked up with the revolution of modern technologies, the most prominent threat, and the future operating environment.

The Corps shall continue to prepare for the future and strengthen its capabilities, especially on amphibious maneuvers to effectively perform its mandate as part of the naval and joint force to support the achievement of national military objectives and contribute to the country's defense and development.

Reference:

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3. Milan Vego., *On Littoral Warfare (Naval War College Review Vol 68 Number 2, Spring, 2015)*, p. 2
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6. *AFP Joint Land Operation (Interim) Manual 2019*, pp. 2-1 to 2-2
7. *PN Cyberwarfare Doctrine (PNM 6-01.14) 2018*, p 2-1
8. *AFP Electronic Warfare Manual (Interim) 2019*, p. 1-2
9. *Marine Corps Operating Concept*
10. *AFP Joint Operations Manual 2013*, p 7-3

SALUTE TO THE MARINE HEROES WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES



Name: Pfc Christian P Cuarto 929988 PN(M)
Designation: Automatic Rifleman, 3rd Marine Company, MBLT-3
Address: Nabua, Camarines Sur
Born: December 11, 1994
Died: July 13, 2020
Killed in Action: Ambushed by Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) in Brgy. Abongan, Taytay, Palawan



Name: Pfc Christopher G Dela Cruz 930134 PN(M)
Designation: Automatic Rifleman, 34th Marine Company, MBLT-4
Address: Mayantoc, Tarlac
Born: January 13, 1996
Died: July 20, 2020
Killed in Action: Encounter against Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) in Brgy. Aribungos, Brooke's Point, Palawan



Name: Sgt Cesar R Barlas 843851 PN(M)
Designation: Platoon Sargeant, 61st Marine Company, Force Reconnaissance Group
Address: Puerto Princesa, Palawan
Born: August 09, 1979
Died: September 03, 2020
Killed in Action: Encounter against Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) in Brgy. Mainit, Brooke's Point, Palawan



Name: Pfc Rhyll B Angot 952712 PN(M)
Designation: Automatic Rifleman, 5th Marine Company, MBLT-5
Address: Tinago, Siquijor
Born: December 19, 1997
Died: September 18, 2020
Killed in Action: Vehicular Ambush (IED) by Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF)

MARINES 101

FINDING THE ANCHOR

Philippine Marine Corps Traditions



Commodore Gregorio Lim

He was the second commandant of the Philippine Marines, But commodore Gregorio Lim holds the distinction of serving the longest continuous term at the helm of the country's hard hitting seaborne strike force, which he led for almost thirteen years.

Along with the birthing pains of the unit, he was privileged to have been part of its growth and had the honor of pioneering the enduring symbols and traditions held sacred by every Filipino Marine. The very traditions that bind both the warriors of the sea past and present – anchored on a culture nurtured through years of patriotism.

Philippine Marine Corps Motto



To instill pride in their Philippine heritage, while ingraining the values that define every Filipino marine, Commodore Lim came up with a motto that stayed true to Filipino Marines' gallant roots. The iconic KKK that symbolizes the kataastaasan, kagalanggalang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan became the inspiration when he penned the words, "Karangalan (Honor), Katungkulan (Duty) at Kabayanihan (Heroism)", that stand for the core values of these warriors.



Philippine Marine Corps Insignia

With passion for heraldry and knack for artistic symbolism, Commodore Lim himself drew the Marines' insignia. The upright anchor represents the Navy, while the silver shield with three silver stars symbolizes defense. Super imposed on the shield is a golden sun that symbolizes the Philippines.

First Marine Company (MARCO) Guidon

Central to the design of the flag is the cross rifle typical of the army infantry insignia with an anchor superimposed at the center set on a navy blue burpee – shaped flag. The historic flag was witness to many field campaigns of the Alpha Company.





Philippine Marine Corps Seal

- **Anchor** – symbolizes the Philippine Marines as an arm of the navy.
- **Shield** – signifies that the unit is a ready and potent force that can defend the country against foreign aggressors and detractors from within.
- **Sun** – like the Philippine flag, the eight rays of the sun juxtaposed over the shield, represent the first provinces, which raised arms against the foreign colonizers during the Philippine revolution.
- **Three Stars** – the three stars on the top of the anchor stand for the three major island groups of the Philippine Archipelago where the Marine units are deployed.
- **The Scroll** – bespeaks of the three glorious ideals of the Marines since its birth that have evolved into the organizational tradition of Karangalan, Katungkulan, and Kabayanihan.
- **The Rope** – the circular background and the rope around the insignia are in the colors of crimson red and gold respectively, which stand for nobility and courage. The continuous ring of rope stands for the renowned esprit-de-corps of the Marines.
- **The Anchor Chain** – the chain symbolizes the solidarity and oneness of the Corps as an organization.
- **The Outer Ring** – it is colored in blue to suggest the affinity of the organization with the navy. Inscribe are the words "Philippine Marine Corps" to signify the strong bond among its members and other Marine Corps worldwide."



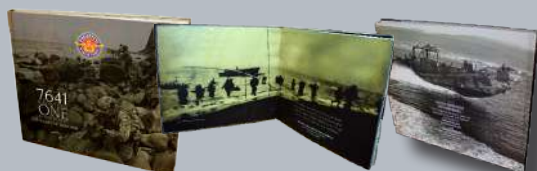
Cake Cutting Ceremony

The highlight of the celebration of the Philippine Marine birthday is the cake cutting ceremony. A practice they share with the US Marines Corps, the ceremony is replete with pomp and military pageantry.

The sounding of attention signals the start of the ceremony and the entrance of the Marine Drum and Bugle Team followed by the parade of Marine colors, company guidons and battalion and brigade standards of the PMC, which will line the route of the birthday cake.




The PMC Sergeant Major leads the detail that will wheel in the birthday cake while the Philippine Marine Corps hymn is being sung.

The Enlisted Personnel of the Year carries the commandant's sword to be used for slicing the cake. After the Sergeant Major presents the cake to the Commandant, who will blow the candles, unsheath the sword, then cut the first slice which he will taste and declare fit for consumption. The second and third slices will be served to the guest of honor and the Philippine Navy's Flag-Officer-In-Command respectively. The fourth slice will then be served to the youngest marine before the cake is ushered out of the hall to be further sliced and served to the guests. Then all colors, guidons, battalion and brigade standards exit the hall with the Marine Drum and Bugle Team.



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Philippine Marine Corps In Response to COVID-19 Pandemic





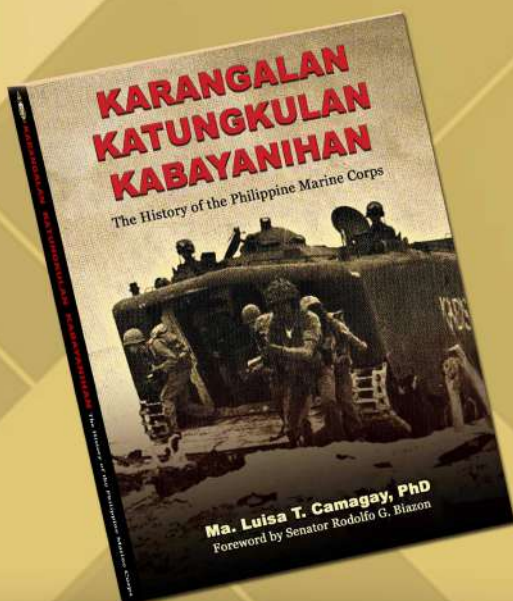


Thank you

- COMMO ALEX CO PCG,
Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary Executive Squadron
- BGEN RODLYN T MANZANO PN(M)(RES)(RET)
- HAVI Logistics Warehouse
- Mr. Armando Dolor Jr.,
Philippine Airlines (PAL), Flight Steward
- Makati Medical Center Foundation Inc.
- Ms. Margie Macasaet-Barro
- Dr. Jack C. Wong,
Executive Director, Jollibee Foods Corporation
- SM Foundation Inc.
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- Earn additional as much as Php 52,143.00 upon graduation
- Earn additional as much additional 10% of base pay every 5 years in the service
- Avail of free housing facilities, medical and dental services

QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 21 years old and not more than 29 years of age by August 01, of any given recruitment year
- Must be a natural born Filipino Citizen and of good moral character
- Unmarried and with no child to support
- Graduate of 4-year baccalaureate degree (preferably technical courses)
- At least 5'0 for both male and female
- Must be Physically and Mentally fit

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to serve the country as a Marine Officer
- Opportunity to study abroad with good compensation and allowances
- Opportunity to avail of post graduate studies in top universities of the country for free
- Opportunity to travel abroad and interact with foreign navies
- Opportunity to duties overseas (United Nation posting)

MARINE BASIC COURSE (MBC)

BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

- Earn additional as much as Php 23,237.00 while on training
- Earn additional as much as Php 37,254.00 upon graduation
- Earn additional as much additional 10% of base pay every 5 years in the service
- Avail of free housing facilities, medical and dental services

QUALIFICATIONS

- At least 18 years old but not more than 26 years of age upon Appointment as Candidate Soldier (CS)
- Must be a natural born Filipino Citizen and of good moral character
- Unmarried and with no child to support
- Completed the K-12 or at least 72 units in college (preferably technical courses) or TESDA NCII
- At least 5'0 for both male and female
- Must be Physically and Mentally fit

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to study abroad with good compensation and allowances
- Opportunity to avail of post graduate studies in top universities of the country for free
- Opportunity to travel abroad and interact with foreign navies
- Opportunity to duties overseas (United Nation posting)

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