



CITEMAR 6

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS



TEAM MARINES @ 72:

KATUWANG NG BAWAT PILIPINO TUNGO SA MAS MAPAYAPA,
MAUNLAD, AT NAGKAKAISANG BANSA



HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

KATUNGKULAN

MARINE
BIRTHDAY
ISSUE 2022



TEAM

MARINES

Train and Educate
Equip and Integrate
Assess and Evaluate
Maintain and Develop

Mission Ready at All Times
Adaptable
Reliable
Innovative
Nationalistic
Excellent
Selflessly Serving the Nation

**35th Commandant,
 Philippine Marine Corps**

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About the Cover

As the world is navigating the new normal in a post-pandemic scenario, the Philippine Marine Corps continues to serve the nation in many capacities. Deployed from north to south, the Marines have been working hard in accomplishing their missions while displaying selflessness, courage, and sacrifice.

Themed, “TEAM MARINES @ 72: Katuwang ng bawat Pilipino tungo sa mas mapayapa, maunlad, at nagkakaisang bansa,” this publication is a fitting tribute as the Corps marks another year and looks forward to more fruitful years ahead. Performing as one team, the Philippine Marine Corps remains committed to serving the nation and supporting the Filipino people in pursuit of peace and development.



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Editor's Corner

This edition celebrates the 72nd Marine Birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps.

While it has been a challenging year, the Marine units were undeterred in carrying out their tasks and accomplishing various feats. Through this publication, we are sharing narratives of hope, collaboration, genuine relations, operational readiness, and strategic alliance that we are all proud of. We thank the contributors for sharing their stories and encourage everyone to read, reflect, and be inspired as we further strengthen the Philippine Marine Corps.



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Message from The
CHIEF OF STAFF
Armed Forces of the Philippines

On behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), allow me to convey my heartfelt salutations to the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) on the occasion of its 72nd Marine Corps Birthday. Congratulations and happy anniversary to the few, the proud, and the gallant Philippine Marines!

For over seven decades now, the PMC has significantly contributed to the fulfillment of the AFP's mandate in protecting the people and securing the state through the conduct of amphibious, expeditionary, and special operations missions, among others. Your achievements in internal security, joint law enforcement, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations speak profoundly of your competence, dedication to duty, and courage to hurdle every hazard in the service of our fellow Filipinos.

Furthermore, with you safeguarding our coasts and seaboards from criminality, illegal activities and foreign incursions, the AFP fights stronger and braver in ending the internal armed conflict with the ever-reliable Marines protecting our "gates." Indeed, your anniversary theme for this year's celebration, "TEAM MARINES @ 72: Katuwang ng Bawat Pilipino Tungo sa mas Mapayapa, Maunlad, at Nagkakaisang Bansa" elaborates on your advanced capability to perform myriad roles in peace and security, disaster response, and nation-building.

With that, I would like to commend the present generation of Marines and pay tribute to those who have served before us for the unparalleled heroism, steadfast commitment to accomplish every mission and rich culture and tradition of the Philippine Marine Corps. I encourage all of you to always "do common things uncommonly well" and in "doing your best, make sure your best matters, and your best makes a difference."

Mabuhay ang Hukbong Kawal Pandagat ng Pilipinas!

Mabuhay ang Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas!


VICENTE BARTOLOME BACARRO
Lieutenant General PA



Message from The
**ACTING FLAG OFFICER
IN COMMAND**
Philippine Navy

I join the Officers, Enlisted Personnel, and Civilian Human Resources of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) in celebrating your 72nd Birthday. Happy Birthday, mga magiging at matatayang na Mandirigma!

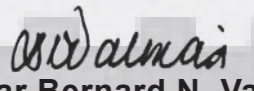
Your Anniversary Theme: "TEAM MARINES @ 72: Katuwang ng Bawat Pilipino Tungo sa Mas Mapayapa, Maunlad, at Nagkakaisang Bansa" reflects the Corps' pursuit towards a more pro-active culture of developing a more capable and future-ready combat systems, technologies and organization that is responsive to the demands of a developing maritime nation like the Philippines.

I acknowledge and commend your forward-looking credo through the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Strategy that creates the right environment for the Marines to become the more flexible and agile force that it aspires to be. For 72 years, you have been ever-reliable seaborne warfighters and a resilient ground combat component of our maritime nation's naval defense force. Your exemplary service to the nation echoes the Marines' priorities to generate a highly adaptive Marine Operating Forces that completes and complements Naval Operating Forces and Joint Operating Forces of the Navy and the AFP, respectively.

As you celebrate your 72nd birthday, I commend every Marine for your continuous preparedness and effort to become a distinct combat force equipped for its role to influence, deter, defend and stabilize.

I am assured that the Philippine Marine Corps, ably led MGEN CHARLTON SEAN M GAERLAN PN(M), will remain a dependable and formidable amphibious force-in-readiness.

Again, Happy 72nd Birthday. Mabuhay kayo! Hurrah!


Caesar Bernard N. Valencia
Rear Admiral PN



Message from The
COMMANDANT
Philippine Marine Corps

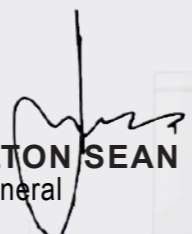
I would like to greet the officers, enlisted personnel, civilian human resource, and reservists of the Philippine Marine Corps as we celebrate more than seven decades of dedicated service to God, country, and people.

The impression that we give to the people, not only as their protectors but most importantly as their partners in nation-building, has been quite remarkable for the past years. As such, I encourage everyone to ride on this momentum in order to do more for our countrymen. In line with this year's theme: "Team Marines @ 72: Katuwang ng bawat Pilipino tungo sa mas mapayapa, maunlad, at nagkakaisang bansa," let us keep on establishing better rapport and generating more collaboration with our stakeholders in order to usher in the new era of lasting peace and progress.

Today, as we raise a toast for this year's momentous occasion, let us also remember our comrades who gave the ultimate sacrifice to the altar of freedom. We honor their memories by demonstrating our tenets of honor, duty, and valor. While these words are not easy to live by, they serve as our shining beacon guiding us as we continue to walk on the path of our forebears.

As we relish 72 years of success, I enjoin all Marines to take this moment to look forward to and prepare for a better future of the Corps. With our strong resolve to uphold our working principle of Team Marines, there is no doubt that we will accomplish the tasks ahead.

Happy 72nd birthday, Marines! Uwaah!


CHARLTON SEAN M. GAERLAN
Major General PN(M)



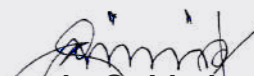
Message from The
**COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR**
Philippine Marine Corps

Every year has its defining moments, and today, as I observed these young men and women in the Corps, it became clear to me that our enlisted force is unquestionably our biggest competitive edge. We are proud to have an enlisted force that is prepared, educated, trusted, and empowered to carry out disciplined initiative within their commander's intent and apply agile and adaptive thinking in order to complete the mission, whether it be in combat, in training, in garrison, or wherever that is. I salute those of you who have the capacity to foresee, adjust to changing circumstances, and withstand the hardships of duty.

As we commemorate the 72nd birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps, we take a moment to reflect on the service the Corps has rendered in defending our country, regardless of current or previous duty, and to pay respects to those who we continue to serve alongside and those we have lost. It helps to deepen our conviction, pay tribute to the sacrifices made throughout our service history, and significantly foster and enhance esprit de corps.

With this, I feel truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to thank the Enlisted Corps for the dedication, devotion, and remarkable collective wisdom that you offer. We chose a career that not all people are grateful for but we get up each day, put on our uniforms, go out into our communities, and seek to create a better, safer, and more just world.

These achievements exemplify our determination and mission success. So, thank you all once again. Happy 72nd Birthday, Philippine Marine Corps!


Antonio O. Limitares
Chief Master Sergeant PN(M)



Send Us In: The Force You Can Count On

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." - Isaiah 6:8

As the nation's force of choice, the Philippine Marine Corps' (PMC) units have seen action in some of the most perilous areas in the country—areas that demand strong government presence. Tested through time, the PMC has confronted all forms of national threat. When the situation arises, the decisionmakers usually give the order: "Send in the Marines!" Truly, the Corps continues to play a key role in winning peace against secessionists, Communist terrorists, and Islamic radicals. In like manner, PMC remains a key figure in securing our territory and providing immediate response amid deadly calamities. From the feats of the countless battles engraved in the history, the Marine Corps has proven to be a dependable force known to be the swiftest deployable and adaptable unit.

Looking back, the PMC started when it was first organized as a Company of the Philippine Fleet's 1st Marine Battalion. The Corps was activated to respond against the HUKBALAHAP, under the orders of then Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay (Greenberg, 1995). The company succeeded in its first amphibious landing on April 19, 1951 in Umiray, Quezon. The first Marine troops got their baptism of fire on June 4 of the same year in Nueva Ecija against communist rebels. With successful results, the Navy decided to expand

the company into a battalion (Lopez, 1998). Since then, the unit expanded into a Corps that saw action in internal security operations.

At the height of the activities of the Communist Party of the Philippines – New People's Army – National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) in Mindanao and Luzon in the 1980s, Marines were sent to confront them. The Communist terrorists felt a terrible blow as guerilla fronts in Bukidnon, Davao, and Cotabato suffered numerous debacles with most of their mass organizations dismantled. In a recovered enemy document, the Communist Terrorist Group in Mindanao claimed that in 1982-84, the guerillas never felt the pinch of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) operations except in two incidents—both involved the Marines (Armed Forces of the Philippines, 2004).

The PMC remained steadfast in its goal to end the Communist terrorist group, well into the late 1990s and early 2000s. Marines in Palawan successfully engaged the CPP-NPA-NDF that caused the latter to evade the Marines and retreated to Mainland Luzon and Mindoro. However, the PMC units in Palawan were eventually transferred to Central Mindanao during President Estrada's All-Out-War. The Communist Terrorist took advantage of this and

established a foothold in Palawan. With an unswerving commitment, a PMC unit was yet again redeployed to Palawan after the Central Mindanao Campaign. Their task was to resolve the growing influence of the CPP-NPA-NDF. The Marines then painstakingly confronted the NPA units in Palawan and incurred few casualties. This only made the Corps even more committed. In line with the creation of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC) through Executive Order No. 70, the Marine units implemented Community Support Programs (CSPs) in the enemy-influenced areas. In early 2022, the 3rd Marine Brigade and its sub-units finally defeated the CPP-NPA-NDF in Palawan. The efforts paved for the neutralization of high-ranking and regular members of the Bienvenido Vallever Command and cooptation of its organized mass. The last NPA unit was dismantled after a decisive firefight in Roxas, Palawan. In support of this victory, the town's Sangguniang Bayan proposed a resolution commending the PMC in finally ending the insurgency in the municipality. Members of the Council asserted that after such a long time, it was only in this year's election that the candidates for public office were not imposed with the extortion labelled as 'permit to campaign' and 'permit to win' fees.



Conflicts erupt when brokered peace deals between the government and the Muslim secessionists groups fail. For decades, the PMC, among other AFP units, stood in the frontline. The Marines faced numerous battles in Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga, and Central Mindanao. During the Estrada Administration's All-Out War in the early 2000s, two Marine Brigades were rapidly deployed as part of the campaign. The units were instrumental in the capture of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front stronghold, Camp Abubakar. In the most recent conflict against the Moro National Liberation Front, the Battle of Zamboanga in 2013, a battalion of Marines was redeployed from Gingoog City. Despite the short notice, the Marine battalion adapted by swiftly establishing blocking positions and clearing its sector as directed by the operational commander.

The Corps is also at the forefront in the fight against foreign and local terrorists. In 2005, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took a determined stance to fight when an upsurge in terrorist kidnappings became evident. The then Commander-in-Chief ordered the deployment of PMC units to confront these terrorist groups (Robinson, 2016). Two Marine Brigades in Sulu and another Marine Brigade in Basilan were tasked to combat the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). Several skirmishes were documented; high value ASG targets were neutralized, and strategic victory was in sight. Recently, the municipalities in the eastern part of Sulu were cleared and assessed to be ready for development. The 4th Marine Brigade has already accomplished its task in Sulu and took on a new mission in Northern Luzon.

In 2016, the 2nd Marine Brigade was transferred to Tawi-Tawi to end the ASG's sea-jacking incidents in the Sea Lines of Communications in the southernmost part of the country. In cooperation with the Philippine Fleet units and Philippine National Police counterparts, the Brigade Commander led Naval Task Group Tawi-Tawi and accurately identified the ASG cells and supporters. This led to the neutralization of the notorious kidnappers. The locals and international merchants happily exclaimed that since then, no record of sea-jacking incident has been recorded. In this feat, the priceless measure of the Corps' victory is the emancipation of the merchants who were previously victimized by the ASG's source funding scheme.

In 2017, the 1st Marine Brigade was tasked to the frontline in the Battle of Marawi. The Marines (then designated as Task Force Tiger) boldly cleared its sector ahead of other AFP units. Employing combined arms, the Marines took back from the enemies the major bridges in the main battle area, a crucial step so that other units could deploy more assets. As described by then Commander Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez of Western Mindanao Command, "The Marines exceeded the expectations as it was very committed and had persisted fighting day and night".

Apart from terrorists and secessionists, the country also suffers from frequent super typhoons and earthquakes. The Corps expresses the same unfaltering commitment in providing assets and personnel during calamities. The Philippine Marines' service is also notable in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response

operations. During the deadly typhoons Yolanda, Pablo, and Odette, the Marines actively deployed assets and teams to respond to areas in high risk. At the height of Super Typhoon Odette in Palawan, the Marines rescued thousands of individuals in vulnerable areas and were instrumental in the stability operations that were appreciated by the community.

Before the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Concept was crafted, PMC in 1970s was already active in territorial defense. As protectors of the sovereignty of the state, the PMC also deployed its units in the most isolated islands in the West Philippine Sea. For the personnel deployed, social isolation in a small remote island or a shoal, living without a source of drinking water (only provision), and lack of access to major telecommunication lines (only military radio) will be experienced. Such a deployment requires not only physical strength, but also mental determination. The Marines endured the challenge, determined to protect our territory.

Perhaps, the Marines will always be present in the nation's most important, most historical events. Proven to be dependable, the Corps has always been tapped in missions that require rapid deployment, adaptability and, most importantly, professionalism. The Corps will remain to be in demand as it possesses unique traits deeply rooted in its rich culture and tradition and has been passed from generation to generation of Marines. Even for other tasks, the Marines are the first unit that will be considered. The then Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales proposed to deploy the Marines in Isabela after the political turmoil increased. Also, President Duterte insinuated the employment of Marines in National Bilibid Prison to end the drug problem.

We, the Marines, remain humble and committed to protecting the people and the state. In its 72nd year of glorious service, the Marine Corps will always respond to the call of duty with: "Send us in!"



MAJ ROMMEL M GELI PN(M)
Executive Officer, Marine Battalion Landing Team-3

Securing the Nation's Ps



In the interest of national defense, it is only practical that a country's armed forces be tailored to its geo-strategic position to effectively respond to internal and external threats to its security. By factoring geography in the design of its defense structure, states are positioned to exploit the advantages of their terrain and reinforce any geographic vulnerabilities. Bearing this in mind, it is understandable how countries that share a border with other states require a substantial army to safeguard their frontiers, while countries that are isolated or accessible by water require a sizeable navy to protect its coastlines. However, what of a country that not only has a vast coastline but is also fragmented in geography?

Consisting of 7,641 islands and a coastline that spans 22,549 miles (the fifth longest in the world), this is the geographic situation that the Philippines finds itself in. This not only begs the question of enabling effective defense, but also being empowered to promote security, development, and socio-cultural harmony for a constituency that is scattered across the entire archipelago. As such, a geography this complex evidently calls for a specialized military force that can bridge the gap between conventional land and sea forces, out of regard of its fragmented geography: a rapidly deployable amphibious fighting force capable of responding to a myriad of existing and newly emerging threats.

This is the pivotal role that the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) plays in the over-all defense architecture of the Philippines. While complementary

to other branches of the service and law enforcement agencies, the unique specializations of the Corps warrant it the distinction of being the archipelagic nation's foremost vanguard of security, development, and national unity. This has been proudly and valiantly demonstrated on numerous occasions since its establishment in 1950, through their key involvement in various military and humanitarian operations, as well as ongoing organizational efforts to transform into a credible and modern archipelagic coastal defense force. To elaborate on this subject, discussion can be divided into the PMC's role in securing the nation's: (1) peace, (2) prosperity, and (3) people.

On securing the nation's peace, the PMC plays an important role in the preservation of security and stability in the Philippines. This is reflected in their key involvement in many of the country's internal security operations against insurgent and secessionist armed groups throughout its post-war and contemporary history.

Tracing its origins to the outbreak of the HUKBALAHAP rebellion, the Corps was literally conceived out of the need for an elite force to counter unconventional adversaries situated in remote areas of the country. For their baptism of fire, the PMC engaged HUKBALAHAP rebels by means of amphibious landings, effectively cementing their strategic value as an elite fighting force that can be rapidly deployed anywhere in the region. In the decades that followed, the Corps would divert from their operational specialty to land-based warfare during campaigns

against groups such as the New People's Army, Moro National Liberation Front, and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, exemplifying operational adaptability and flexibility. This was further reflected in recent years in engagements against separatist and terrorist armed groups during the sieges of Zamboanga and Marawi where Marine Operating Forces (MOF) successfully navigated the challenges of urban warfare to drive out the enemy.

In addition to these combat functions, Marines, in conjunction with other branches of the service ensure the efficient and secure conduct of government and bureaucratic processes that are critical to national governance and services through provision of security. This is often observed in their involvement in securing high-level events at a multilateral, bilateral, and national level; enabling conducive and productive engagements to take place in pursuit of positive outcomes for the country, and the safe practice of civil liberties such as voting. As a result, the Corps has shown itself to be instrumental in the maintenance of comprehensive peace.

On securing the nation's prosperity, the PMC's relevance is underscored by its operational coverage of our country's frontier: our coastlines. From an economic standpoint, access to water is advantageous for countries as it provides a bounty of resources that can fuel a country's economy and channels for commerce and development to take place. In accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea, a country has exclusive



economic rights over resources found within 200 nautical miles from the nearest coastline. Situated at the heart of Southeast Asia and boasting the fifth largest coastline in the world, the Philippines is in a geographically strategic position to exploit these advantages to benefit its economy, and by extension, its coastal communities. As such, our MOFs bear the significant task of projecting the Philippines' dominion over its exclusive economic zone from our nation's coastline, which persists to be challenged by the competing claims of other states such as China, which continues to aggressively enforce their claims on the West Philippine Sea.

In this regard, the Corps finds itself entrusted with the mission of preserving the Philippines' territorial integrity. To achieve this, MOFs maintain a presence on islands located on the Kalayaan Island Group, as well as in the northernmost and southernmost region of the Philippines to assert its sovereignty over disputed features as part of passive territorial defense missions. As testament to their dedication and will, the beached BRP Sierra Madre on the Spratly Islands remains to be manned by Marines to further maintain military presence in the area, despite constant isolation and efforts by Chinese ships to hamper the flow of supply to the outpost. Furthermore, their commitment to securing our coastline is underscored by their ongoing efforts to evolve into a credible archipelagic coastal defense force, which has recently materialized with the acquisition of the Brahmos anti-ship missile system for its Coastal

Defense Regiment and the adaptation of the Marine Operating Concept 2021, which charted the way forward for the PMC. With these developments and vision, the Corps is well on their way to emerging as an effective deterrent and a capable coastal defense force that can secure the Filipinos' unchallenged access to the country's vast maritime resources, and if necessary, respond to any and all threats that endanger our nation's economic endeavors.

As for securing the nation's people, the above stated accomplishments, functions, and way ahead in terms of peace and prosperity are contributory to the security of the Filipino people as a whole. By responding to different armed threats across different operating environments and ensuring the security of public functions, the Corps stands to preserve peace and political stability. By working to secure our coastlines by developing its capabilities and projecting control over our EEZ through sustained military presence, the Corps is positioned to empower communities and local industries to thrive from the resources located in our EEZ and from it build a stronger economy that can enable a higher standard of living.

On top of these, another area through which the PMC excels and maintains its relevance in securing the people comes with the conduct of essential humanitarian operations during national calamities. Given our geographic location, the Philippines experiences an average of 16 typhoons, several of which had inflicted severe damages to different

communities and affected many lives. Upon the occurrence of these calamities, Marines were always there to lend a helping hand, rekindling hope among a devastated populace as they arrive in their KAAVs and trucks to conduct rescue and relief operations and take part in rehabilitation efforts to rebuild lives that have been destroyed by typhoons. These undertakings are further complemented by the Corps' civil-military operations in far-flung areas and coastal communities, the conduct of which have been instrumental in the consolidation of ties between MOFs and the people they protect through sustained interaction and exchanges, leading to a foundation of trust and friendship that motivates civil-military cooperation in the pursuit of our national agenda.

In summary, the PMC is not only confined to being the coastal instrument of naval power. Through years of honor, duty, and valor, it has risen to be a vital instrument of securing our nation's peace, prosperity, and people. For the same reason an archipelagic nation requires a credible marine fighting force, a peaceful and prosperous Philippine nation requires a strong and modern Philippine Marine Corps. For as long as we shall have the Corps, our country shall remain ever secure.



Mr. Aaron John Patubo

Researcher, Office of AC of MS for Plans and Programs, MC5



Early History of the

Philippine Marine Corps

By: TSg. John Joshua G. Reyes PN(M)

The Philippine Marine Corps traces its roots from the early fifties in response to the desire of the late President RAMON MAGSAYSAY who was then the Secretary of National Defense to create a highly mobile and hard-hitting sea borne force that can strike against the dissident HUKBALAHAP and others lawless elements entrenched along the vast coastal hideouts in the archipelago. This led to the birth of the Marine "A" Company. "A" Company was formally activated pursuant to General Number 319 Section VI Armed Forces of the Philippines effective 02 November 1950 dated 20 November 1950, authorizing the organization of a Marine Company as a unit of the Philippine Naval Patrol (now the Philippine Navy). Considering the projected hard and dangerous concept of its employment, only volunteers were accepted in this special unit. Six (6) Officers and two hundred (230) Enlisted Personnel, formed the core of the First Marine Company with Lieutenant Manuel A Gomez, a graduate of the Philippine Military (PMA) Class 41 was designated as the first Commanding Officer, with the help of his Executive Officer Lieutenant Gregorio L Lim, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy Class 45. Together, they pioneered the organization, training, equipping, and development of the newly organized unit.

After barely five months of training, the unit was

ordered to conduct its first amphibious assault at Umiray, Quezon in conjunction with AFP's "Operation Dragnet" on 19 April 1951. To their disappointment, however, they seized their first beachhead unopposed. But as they moved inland, the Marines finally had their baptism of fire on 04 June 1951 in the province of Nueva Ecija. Since then, the Marines have been the byword for combat accomplishment. Their utilization was characterized by rapid movements from one part of the archipelago to another. The Marines were seen in action in the four corners of the country. While engaged against the Huks in Luzon, they likewise formed detachments of platoon and squad-size units which were deployed against pirates and smugglers plying the Sulu Sea frontiers in Mindanao and against other lawless elements in various provinces in the Visayas.

With the breaking of the backbone of the Huk movement in 1954, the years that followed became an opportunity for the Marines to further hone their individual and unit's skills through various training guided by the highest military traditions. On its 5th Anniversary, the unit finally became a battalion with the organization of a Headquarters and Service Company and the 2nd Marine Company, with the then Lieutenant Commander Gregorio L Lim as the First Battalion Commander. It was also at this time that the organization adopted 7 November as its official birthday.

Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan: The History of the Philippine Marine Corps A Book Review

By: PFC Glycelie Hope Tapurco PN(M)

Dr. Ma. Luisa Camagay's work on the history of the Corps invites reflection to its Marine readers and inspires awe to civilian readers. Dedicated to all the fallen and living Marine heroes, the piece imbues valor and sacrifice as undeniable elements in the history of the Philippine Marines.

The book was told in 10 chronological chapters. It encapsulates the 69 years of history of the PMC as an institution. Elaborately, it accounts how the Corps weathered the challenges that came its way while staying true to its motto, Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan. With a foreword from former commandant and senator Rodolfo G. Biazon and Dr. Camagay's skillful storytelling, the history of the PMC is showcased in an interesting manner. In each chapter, it never fails to honor the heroes who shed blood in the momentous battles that the Marines faced.

It was humbling to know the beginnings of our beloved Corps. With the rise of the HUKBALAHAP movement and their refusal to surrender in the post-World War II scene, then-secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay saw the need to create a cutting-edge force to end the communist insurgency. On November 2, 1950, the PMC was born as Company A of the Philippine Naval Patrol with Lt. Senior Grade Manuel Gomez as the first commanding officer. From the seal, to the guidon, to the hymn, and even the oath, Commodore Lim designed them with rich foresight as to how the Marines should be. It was telling that he drew inspiration from the KKK of the first Philippine revolution in its motto: Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan. This inspiration to nationalism was realized in the Marines' first mission to crush the Huks and in all the other missions that followed. To me, it captivates the consistency of the Marines' characteristic as a versatile, strongly-determined troops, ready to carry out the



mission even in far-flung islands like Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, in selfless service to the nation.

Karangalan shone brightly in so many of the historic battles led by the Marines. However, as stated in the Philippine Marine Corps Ethos, "While it [honor] is often bestowed, a Marine's sense of honor must begin from within." To me, the most impressionable display of PMC's honor manifested when it was deployed to Central Mindanao to fight communist insurgency. Two marine battalions took a long cross-country march from Davao, through Bukidnon and eventually to the Agusan del Sur-Surigao del Sur boundary. Most inspiring was "winning the hearts and minds of the people" (p.64). During the martial law when soldiers were feared, the Marines gained the trust and support of the people of Davao by displaying integrity and utmost respect for human life. They conducted medical missions to the communities and never abused their power by looting food and goods but instead buying them or bartering for them. This display of discipline proved the honor of the Marines. This, despite the difficulties of the 357-km long trek. It came to a point when the people of Davao petitioned to Cory Aquino post-martial law that the Philippine Marines be retained in Davao. The book mentioned a statement on the petition, "If only all military personnel were like the Marines, insurgency will never thrive in our midst" (p.67). Of all the honorable merits and medals bestowed to the PMC, this simple yet timely act of recognition from our civilian stakeholders showed a more humane, sincere side of the Corps and bestowed to us the highest honor.

Katungkulan was so well-manifested in how the Marines performed in one of the most controversial administrations in the country---the Marcos administration. Firstly, it was highlighted that the first combat operation in the Marcos Martial Law period was

undertaken by the Marines. Despite the political turmoil and the overwhelming burgeoning of the newly-established Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army, the Marines remained bound in its duty to serve and protect the Filipino people. The same can be said for the Corps from the beginning until the end of the Marcos regime. Up until the People Power that removed Marcos from power, the Marines followed orders from the higher command without harming any civilian protester. The disjunct in the intention to remain in duty to follow civilian authority and the moral responsibility to not harm unarmed civilians was a test to General Tadiar when he was given orders to march to Camp Aguinaldo while a thick sea of Cory supporters blocked the road. The tense confrontation was

documented in all the history books created about Martial Law, but Dr. Camagay shed light on the event in such a veracious manner. The different accounts provided in the book exhibit the different angles that show the same truth: the Marines refuse to hurt innocent civilians nor their fellow soldiers in Camp Aguinaldo. Col. Balbas' response to Gen. Tadiar's order, "I would rather consider this an illegal order" (p.79), rings clear that the Marines stayed true to its duty. I share Sen. Biazon's sentiments on the Marines' performance during the EDSA incident. After learning all that in Chapter 4, I gained a novel appreciation of just how duty-bound the Corps is, even more so in times of political conflict. I can only aspire to cling tightly to our Katungkulan just as tightly as our forebearers held onto it in a time where the country itself is at a split.

Kabayanihan was displayed in various historical events the Marine played a part in. Having read the accounts, the Marawi Siege hit quite close to home. For four months, a marine brigade with three marine battalions struggled and succeeded in putting an end to the ISIS siege of Marawi. Retaking Mapandi Bridge was tasked as a key mission to the Marines, and it took three days of heavy fire exchange and heavy marine casualties: 13 KIA, 48 and 1 MIA (eventually discovered KIA). Before Marawi was declared liberated, 36 sacrificed their lives in battle—valor in times of crisis if I'd ever seen it.

In all these experiences in which I was not present, Dr. Camagay in her carefully knit historical piece took me there with my brothers-in-arms and taught me valuable lessons of Honor, Duty, and Valor. The book is not just a string of stories about the development of the Corps—it was an honest compilation of the hardships and crises that the Philippine Marine Corps faced throughout history and the graceful way it emerges stronger from each. As a female marine in modern times, I aspire to embody the same grace so I can grow individually and contribute to the growth of the Corps. On that note, I agree with the book's conclusion that there is a need for PMC to pursue becoming an independent branch of service so it can grow in strength and relevance. In its endeavor to become independent from the Navy, I am certain that the PMC is on the right track to making history.

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History of Coastal Defense in the Philippines and its importance to the Modern-Day Coastal Defense Operations

BY: CPT DENNIS I BAUTISTA PN(M)

Corregidor Island's significance in the military complex stretches back to the beginning of the Spanish Colonial period in the 1500s when Spanish galleons were used to anchor there or on other surrounding islands. Aside from having a naval port, it served as an outpost to warn Manila and other Spanish outposts of oncoming sea dangers.

Corregidor became a haven for Limahong's pirates, the Royal Navy during the British Invasion of Manila, Dutch pirates, and naval battles during the Spanish-American War, where the Spanish garrison on El Fraile Island fired at Admiral George Dewey's ships, though they were out of range. When the Philippines became an American colony, fortifications were built on the island and gun emplacements with the latest caliber were installed until after WWI.

Caballo, Carabao, Corregidor, El Fraile, and Grande Islands were declared Military Reservations on April 11, 1902. The construction of the Fortifications at Manila Bay began in 1905. The primary goal of constructing the fortifications at Manila Bay was to give a defense to the United States. Navy Asiatic Fleet Headquarters in Subic Bay, Manila City, and the ports and harbors of Manila and its neighboring provinces.

Fast forward to modern-day Coastal Defense, the concept of seacoast defense became increasingly essential in the Philippines due to previous experiences with readiness during the War. With the simultaneous successful defense of Fort Mills on Corregidor, Fort Hughes on Caballo Island, Fort Frank on Carabao Island, Fort Drum on El Fraile, and Fort Wint on Grande Island, Subic Bay, became part of the Philippine Coast Artillery Command under MGen. George F. Moore US Army and demonstrated the potential value of well-designed fortifications.

The coastal fortification system must be constructed to safeguard vital harbors and cities, interior navigation, and navy yards. A coastal defense under the System must grow slowly and deliberately without the urgency of a specific attack. The fortification system provided a comprehensive coastal defense program with superior armaments. It was expected that the new fortifications, large and small, would offer appropriate, permanent security for the entire country.

The Secretary of National Defense approved the Philippine Navy Table of Organization on April 29, 2019.

Along with this approval, the Philippine Navy activated the Coastal Defense Regiment (Provisional) under General Orders Nr 311 dated June 22, 2020, effective as of April 28, 2020. The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), as the mother of this unit, formally activated the Headquarters Coastal Defense Regiment (Provisional) on August 7, 2020, presided by former Commandant, MGen. Nathaniel Y. Casem PN(M) (Ret) at Headquarters PMC, Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Col. Romulo D. Quemado II PN(M)(GSC) was designated as the first Commander, with five other officers from Headquarters Battalion and Field Artillery Battalion to compose the Regimental Staff, Commanding Officer of Headquarters Service Company, and the 33 enlisted personnel coming from different units of the PMC as the pioneers.

On April 4, 2022, the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion was activated under the Coastal Defense Regiment of the PMC in preparation for the arrival of the Brahmos Anti-Ship Missiles by the following year.

On July 22, 2022, the Shore-Based Air-Defense Battalion was activated under the same unit.

These weapons systems would be critical in defending and securing the world's second-largest archipelago, which has about 7,600 islands and a total coastline of 36,289 kilometers. As a maritime nation, we are now on the right track in procuring additional missiles, and activation of other Coastal Missile Batteries in the country's critical chokepoints and passages is required, one of which is the designation of maritime zones in which the batteries could be emplaced or prepositioned. Historical examples of anti-access/area denial demonstrate the need for a critical Coastal Defense Unit and a Coastal Defense System for the world's second-largest archipelago.

References:

Philippine Marine Corps Archipelagic Coastal Defense (ACD) Concept <https://maritimereview.ph/4526-2/#comment-693>

SBASMS and SBADS: Inseparable Critical Archipelagic Coastal Defense Capabilities

BY: MAJ LAWRENCE D MEDINA PN(M)

"The archer is the true weapon; the bow is just a long piece of wood." – Sebastien De Castell

The Shore-Based Air Defense Systems (SBADS) work collaboratively with the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Systems (SBASMS) in establishing and maintaining an effective strategic defense and deterrence along identified strategic coastal terrains such as the Sea Lanes of Communications against traditional and non-traditional security threats.

During ancient warfare, the archer was considered a lethal threat. If not neutralized immediately, countless wooden arrows were expected to land accurately, killing and devastating multiple targets.

Though the mode of warfare has evolved, most tactical and strategic concepts hold and are still applicable. One of these is prioritizing the neutralization of the archer more than its arrows.

Today, the arrows may be in the form of air and missile threats launched by the archer, which may come in the form of an aircraft carrier. This threat could be launched from a distant direction within or beyond the hostile adversary's anti-access area denial capability umbrella.

Air and missile threats are the primary concern of the Shore-Based Air Defense System. However, due to the limited number of air defense missile rounds in the inventory and the cost-effectiveness considerations against less expensive targets, a more formidable, equipped, and sophisticated adversary can saturate any air defense system.

Moreover, according to the Pacific Integrated Air and Missile Defense Center (PIC), it is more advantageous to intercept an inbound missile during its boost phase than its terminal phase. The goal is to intercept adversary systems as close to their source as possible to avoid collateral damage to the defending forces' PESTEL (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, and Legal) considerations.

However, the concept mentioned in the previous paragraph applies only to missiles other than Ballistic

Missiles. The PIC said that there is currently nothing in the inventory of every missile-capable country that can intercept Ballistic Missiles during a boost phase.

Hitting and destroying the archer – the hostile surface platform – before it can even launch its arrows is a better solution than intercepting all its launched arrows to compensate for the limited number of air defense missile rounds in achieving a credible Archipelagic Coastal Defense.

This approach is where the SBASM takes the spotlight. It provides a powerful knockout punch through its cruise missiles against hostile enemy surface platform – the archer – which is mostly the source of arrows – air, and missile threats.

The integration of offense and defense is valued even by the PIC as one of the essential considerations in the Integrated Air and Missile Defense. Even if the two operations differ, they must mutually support one another to create a cohesive effort. The best missile defense strategy continues to be the success of offensive operations in countering air and missile threats.

Similarly, the two incoming shore-based missile systems of the Philippine Marine Corps can seamlessly perform the defense-offense integration given the necessary components. Even though each shore-based missile system capability has its inherent mission, still, each cannot be effectively employed without the support of the other missile system.

The SBADS defends the SBASM from air and missile threats, while the latter shields the previous from a saturation attack by a more powerful, well-equipped, and advanced hostile adversary.

Nevertheless, the SBADS and the SBASMS of the Philippine Marine Corps are inseparable critical capabilities in attaining a credible Archipelagic Coastal Defense for this nation.



Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion:

First and Only Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Unit of the AFP

BY: MAJ LAWRENCE D MEDINA PN(M)

A historic moment transpired on April 3, 2022 when the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) activated the first and currently the only anti-ship missile (ASM) unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) – the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion (SBASMBn). The SBASMBn, under the Coastal Defense Regiment (CDR), was activated pursuant to Headquarters PMC General Orders Number 52, dated March 25, 2022.

A simple ceremony occurred within the sacred ground of the Headquarters PMC, Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Taguig City. This momentous occasion was presided by no less than the former Commandant, MGen. Nestor C. Herico PN(M)(Ret).

The Philippine Navy Active Archipelagic Defense Strategy was the impetus for the conceptualization of the SBASMBn. This strategy establishes a coastal defense centered on shore-based firepower support. It prescribes the employment of shore-based missile systems to support joint and surface operations, particularly inside the country's coastal terrains, including maritime chokepoints, critical coastal approaches, sentinel islands, and cluster island defense.

Similarly, the PMC released the Archipelagic Coastal Defense (ACD) Concept to update the Marine Corps Operating Concept published in 2016. The new concept maintains

a responsive and relevant fighting force attuned to the rapidly changing operational environment.

The PMC's ACD Concept emphasizes the security and defense of the country's territorial integrity, coastal zone, sea lanes of communications, all offshore possessions, including islands and resource exploration/exploitation, friendly shipping, capital areas, and other critical infrastructure thru seaward, landward, and supporting maneuvers, with See-Deter-Engage-Protect construct as its employment concept.

Shore-based fires, encompassing both landward and seaward maneuvers, were emphasized as one of the significant factors in the execution of the ACD Concept in support of the attainment of the National Military Objectives.

Looking further backward, after the AFP presented a list of additional proposed projects totaling to P 76.2B on November 23, 2017, a budget of P18.9B was appropriated for the Philippine Navy SBASMS project. The objective of the Philippine Navy to have a coastal defense centered on shore-based firepower support began to materialize. As a result, Presidential Directive Number 2017-0426 was signed.

The said directive gave the Secretary of National Defense and

the Chief of Staff, AFP, instructions to research potential funding sources for the various equipment. As a result, a Defense Acquisition System Assessment Team, or DASAT, was formed for the projects.

The SBASM System seeks to safeguard the Philippine archipelago in general and vital assets by deterring and perhaps destroying hostile surface threats in the high seas and the littorals within missile range.

Currently, the SBASMBn is in a provisional status while awaiting the arrival of the ASM system as the unit's mission-essential equipment. Meanwhile, as part of the unit's preparation, the officers and enlisted personnel assigned to this unit are working hard to accomplish the non-materiel aspects to build a strong unit culture that places premium on appropriate equipment maintenance and a positive training attitude.

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- *Philippine Navy Active Archipelagic Defense Strategy (PN AADS)*



Weighing of prototype boat

PMC gets new rigid raiding craft

One of the highlights of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) modernization project is the supply and delivery of the 16 units of brand-new fiberglass reinforced plastic watercraft (speedboat) of the PMC with a total cost of P338M funded by the Government Appropriation Act (GAA) during the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. This project was implemented under the Philippine International Trade Corporation (PITC) with JV Propmech Corporation and Safe Marine Tech, Inc.

After a thorough review of technical specifications and amendment of the contract, the final prototype boat was inspected by the Technical Inspection and Acceptance Committee (TIAC) on August 18-19, 2022. Col. Ronald M. Virtudazo PN(M)(GSC), Chairman of the TIAC team, stated that once the proponent complies and secures the Certificate of Acceptance from PITC, they should immediately start the production of the first tranche delivery of eight units including the prototype by the first quarter of 2023 with 180 days of working completion. The second tranche will be in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2023 for the other eight remaining boats with 120 days for the complete delivery of 16 boats.

These boats will serve as interdiction craft, patrol craft, ship-to-shore operation craft, and sea craft performing other amphibious operations that can support the PMC mission in the Naval Operating Forces. These can be executed as fast as 40-45 NM with two mounted 50-calibers in the aft and a 60-caliber machine gun mounted on the bow deck. They also have complete GPS and radar accessories that can navigate from day to night operation with a triple engine (cox) 300 HP (diesel outboard engine) and they can operate at sea state 3 conditions. These crafts can accommodate 12 fully combat-loaded personnel and six sea craft crew. The 16



During actual sea trial of the boat.

units of the fast boat will be manned and maintained by the Marine Corps Assault Boat Battalion (MCABBn) personnel.

As an amphibious force in nature, the PMC must be equipped with the aforementioned capability in order to perform its mandate and deliver excellent performance. With these newly acquired assets, the boat operators and boarding team will have an increased level of morale in conducting any small-scale amphibious operation and in serving the Corps efficiently and diligently.



CPT MARCELO M FLORES PN(M)
Chief, Research and Development Branch, MC11

WAR GAME EXERCISES ARE IMPERATIVE IN RESTORING OUR MARINE CORPS' ORIGINAL PURPOSE, AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE, AND COASTAL DEFENSE

BY: 2LT ANUNCIO REGGIE S SULLA PN(M)



Located in the Pacific Ocean close to the equator, the Philippines is an archipelagic country comprised of 7,641 islands and roughly 2,000 of which are inhabited. The Philippines is a nation divided into numerous islands by the sea. Being the fifth-longest coastline in the world, spanning 36,289 kilometers (22,549 miles), it only makes logical sense to bolster our coastal defense and amphibious capability.

With the current war between Russia and Ukraine still ongoing and tensions building up between China and Taiwan, the possibility of another World War is still a scenario that we cannot rule out. It is now prime time for us to prepare and augment our territorial defense capability to safeguard our sovereignty and what better way to do so than through conducting military joint and combined exercises with foreign armed forces.

Military simulations, usually referred to colloquially as war games, are simulations that allow for the testing and improvement of military concepts without the necessity for actual confrontations. The development of tactical, strategic, and doctrinal solutions is seen to benefit from these military exercises. MAREX (Marine Exercise), MASA (Marine Aviation Support Activity), PAGSASAMA (a Marine Reservist Integrated Exercise), and the largest of all, BALIKATAN, are just some of the joint and combined exercises that the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) has recently conducted this year alongside with our other branches of the military and our longtime exercise partner, the

US Navy, and Marine Corps.

PMC got off to a solid start this year by holding its first exercise, the MAREX 2022, which was launched by the Philippine Marines and the US Navy on January 27 to solidify the maritime security capabilities of the two longtime friends. The two nations "performed maritime operations training to increase their cooperative ability to boost mutual defense capabilities and respond to natural disasters" according to the US Embassy in Manila.

MAREX is an exercise with our principal ally and international partner, the United States Marine Corps, which has long trained alongside us and shared responsibility for maintaining regional peace and security with us. Amphibious assault coordination and execution, subject matter expert exchanges, and integrated marine operations like search and seizure operations and tactical maneuvering were among the highlights of this year's MAREX.

On June 7, 2022, MASA 2022, a three-week bilateral training program between the Philippine military and the United States Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (MARFORPAC), was officially launched at the PMC Headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. This intends to improve subject matter exchanges for Unmanned Aviation Systems and engineering, as well as the combined and joint interoperability of the two forces when it comes to carrying out tactical and heliborne operations, coastal defense forward arming, and such. "The aviation's role in joint, combined, interagency and

multinational operations has always been significant in the accomplishment of our mission, especially in the defense of our sovereignty and sovereign rights," Vice Admiral Alberto Carlos, Commander, Western Command (WESCOM) said.

To increase the joint force's aviation capability and interoperability for WESCOM's mission areas, the Philippine Navy's Naval Air Wing and the Philippine Air Force are also taking part in the aforementioned training. The MASA 2022 was the second significant training exercise this year in Palawan.

Another exercise dubbed "PAGSASAMA 2022" was an exercise intended for the integration of our Marine Reservists into our regular forces. Additionally, it has given them the chance to sharpen their marksmanship abilities and gain essential information and expertise on how amphibious operations are carried out. As a result of this training, our Marine reservists have developed the proper character and discipline that will equip them well for deployment to fight alongside the regular troops in times of war or crisis. The aforementioned activity has also given our staff members a chance to instruct our reservists, contribute their technical experience, knowledge, and abilities, and foster camaraderie, all of which have helped to further solidify our relationships with our Marine Reservist. The exercise took place in Headquarters PMC, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City to Naval Forces Southern Luzon, Legazpi City, Albay, for one week from June 5-11, 2022.

Lastly, the largest exercise

of them all is the BALIKATAN 2022. It was conducted from March 28 to April 8, 2022. Together with the U.S. military, our Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have trained to enhance and refine existing common tactics, techniques, and procedures that improve our capability to respond to emergencies and readiness for difficult situations. Training to enhance maritime security, live-fire training, urban operations, aviation operations, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response was the objective of the BALIKATAN 2022 training of 3,800 AFP members and 5,100 U.S. military troops together shoulder-to-shoulder.

To employ the Marine Ready Amphibious Unit (MARU) in the conduct of integration training and mission rehearsal on amphibious landing, raid, heliborne operations, and non-combat evacuation with follow on operations ashore focusing on amphibious operations; to conduct integration training and mission rehearsals in the context of Island Seizure and Coastal Defense; to conduct AAV (Amphibious Assault Vehicle) operation in the designated area within the prescribed timeline between state 1 and 3 in accordance with the amphibious manual; to provide the necessary medical support to the MARU and its operational control units during the conduct of Fleet-Marine Operations in the event of assault to its given objective; to employ a howitzer and artillery platoon as a MARU component in the conduct of the amphibious operation by providing indirect fire support to ground combat elements within the prescribe timeline; to conduct SMEE related to the

deployment of M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in terms of Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership and education, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF) framework; To conduct Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs) in Shore-Based Anti-Air and Anti-Surface Missile System, and to conduct SMEEs on Information Operations were the exercise objectives of the PMC in line with its role as amphibious warfare and coastal defense expert.

The AFP and U.S. forces' capacity to organize, direct, and communicate with one another in a simulated situation is also put to the test during the exercise's command post exercise. This instruction will improve the alliance's overall security and defensive capabilities.

The Tagalog word "Balikatan," which translates to "shoulder-to-shoulder" or "sharing the load together," sums up the exercise's attitude and symbolizes the strong partnership between the Philippines and the United States.

The corps will also carry out its final two exercises before the year is complete. The Corps is still planning and preparing for the upcoming training exercises namely KAMANDAG (Kaagapay ng mga Mandirigma mula sa Dagat) which translates to "Cooperation of the warriors of the sea" and DAGIT-PA (Dagat, Langit, at Lupa) or "Sea, air, and land" an AFP-wide exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability during joint operations of the Philippine Navy, Philippine Air Force, and Philippine Army.

The PMC-hosted KAMANDAG is a PH-US bilateral exercise that will be participated by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) and Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC). The exercise will be conducted at the various training areas in Northern Luzon and Palawan in October 2022. The exercise will focus on capacitating the MARU; enhancing the capability in Special Operations; bolstering the Coastal Defense Regiment; improving individual knowledge, skills, and attributes (KSA) in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations; and enhancing the capability in Information Operation and Photography for strategic communication (STRATCOM).

DAGIT-PA on the other hand is an AFP Joint Exercise that will be participated by contingents from the Philippine Fleet and Philippine Marine Corps of the Philippine Navy, Philippine Army, and Philippine Air Force. The purpose of our participation is to validate our amphibious warfighting capability in support of our National Military Strategy and AFP's Joint Operating and Future Force Structure Concept in the context of Territorial Defense, Counterterrorism operations, Internal Security Operations, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive.

Overall, these training exercises are crucial in shaping our reputation as masters and specialists in Amphibious Warfare and Coastal Defense by maximizing our current pioneering assets and capabilities. In the words of John F. Kennedy, "It is a sad fact that we can secure peace only by preparing for war."



PMC-USMC Marine Aviation Support Activity 2022 kicks off in Palawan

By: 3rd Marine Brigade

The Marine Aviation Support Activity (MASA), a semi-annual United States (US) and Philippine Military bilateral exercise on mutual defense, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response, officially started in Palawan on June 6, 2022 and ran until June 16, 2022.

This year's MASA focused on the capability development for combined and joint inter-operability in the conduct of combined tactical operations, heliborne operations, and Unmanned Aerial System operations as an application of the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Concept of the PMC. The training activities were held at the Western Command and Northern Luzon Command Joint Area of Operations.

The MASA 2022 events in Palawan started following the simultaneous Philippine Marine Corps (PMC)-wide virtual opening ceremony attended by the Commander, 3rd Marine Brigade (3MBde), BGen. Jimmy D. Larida PN(M) and representatives from the United States Marine Corps (USMC) at Headquarters 3MBde in Puerto Princesa City.

The training activities took place in Western Command Joint Area of Operations with focus on the Combined and Joint Forward Arming and Refueling Point, subject matter exchanges, and engineering operations as an application of the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Concept of the PMC. The interoperability training was participated by the marines and aviators from the 3MBde, Naval Air Wing, and Tactical Operations Wing-West of the Philippine Air Force.

These exercises rehearsed and refined the tactics, techniques, and procedures for command and control in support of mutual defense and developed the PH-US Marine

forces' capabilities on combined and joint interoperability in rapid and support operations. Training side by side during the MASA 2022 did not only increase combined military capability but also enhanced effectiveness and readiness in protecting the Philippine territory.



“VALKYRIE”:

AN EMERGENCY BLOOD TRANSFUSION SYSTEM TO CAPACITATE THE MARINE CORPSMAN ON THE POINT OF INJURY ON THE BATTLEFIELD

BY: COL PHAVEENA R AGUINALDO MC(GSC)

The Philippine-United States Bilateral Exercise KAMANDAG 6-22 made it possible to introduce to the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), specifically the PMC Medical Service, the concept of Valkyrie. It is the first time in the history of the PMC Medical Service and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Health Service that this concept was presented to them.

A PMC Corpsman who participated in the KAMANDAG 6-22 mass casualty scenario experienced 250cc of his blood drawn while Cdr. Thuy Lin MC USN, Regimental Surgeon, 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division of the US Marine Corps, explained the process of Valkyrie. Lt. Col. Juland Sangoy MC, Assistant Marine Corps Surgeon, 1Lt. Kenneth Ray Abad NC, Marine Base Gregorio Lim (MBGL) Medical Dispensary Assistant Chief Nurse, and Cpt. Karl B. Banganan DS led the group of 15 Corpsmen and 2 Dental Technicians from various PMC and Philippine Navy (PN) Units that worked with Cdr. Lin and her USMC Medical team for two weeks in Basco, Batanes, where most of the community health engagements took place.

They developed the mass casualty scenario that was presented on October 8, 2022 in Basco during the planning phase of the community health service. These significant activities were witnessed by the AFP Health Service leadership led by BGen. Fatima Claire Navarro MC, the AFP Surgeon General; BGen. Edgar M. Cardinosa PAF, Commander, AFP HSC; BGen. Venus M. Bajarin NC, AFP Chief Nurse, PN; and Col. Phaveena R. Aguinaldo MC (GSC), PMC Medical Services, Marine Corps Surgeon.

The idea behind Valkyrie “is to provide whole blood as a resuscitation fluid.” The blood is drawn and transfused directly to the patient at the point of injury, more commonly on the battlefield. A US Marine Battalion Surgeon stated that this procedure boosts the chances of survival for hemorrhaging casualties during actual operations. A trained corpsman carries with him during military operations the lightweight blood transfusion kit, thereby putting life-delivering blood transfusion capability in their hands as ‘Battalion Doctors’. It is a point-of-care procedure for casualties that cannot medically evacuate to higher-echelon trauma care equipped with larger blood supplies. A primary advantage of this



procedure is that whole blood extracted from the donor does not need refrigeration since it is directly transfused to the patient or the casualty. The process lasts for 10-15 minutes.

According to the Joint Trauma System Clinical Practice Guideline on Damage Control Resuscitation, the medical care provided between the time of injury and casualty evacuation, including pre-hospital blood transfusions when required, significantly reduces the mortality rates. Valkyrie has been adopted as an emergency blood transfusion on the battlefield by the US Navy and the USMC.

This PMC and USMC medical collaboration has opened the doors for the whole of AFP health services to look into the possibility of capacitating all the corpsmen, hospitalmen, and aidmen with this capability to live up to its mission: to conserve the fighting strength of the troops, in this case, in an actual battlefield setting. Furthermore, Valkyrie has also opened another potential opportunity for Marines to foster brotherhood: as “blood brothers” right on the point of injury, on the battlefield.



Marines Take Part in Earthquake and Tsunami Drill Simulation Exercise in Datu Blah Sinsuat

BY: 2LT AR-GEMAR S HASSAN PN(M)

Safety first is safety always. The province of Maguindanao experienced a tragic earthquake that spawned a tsunami on August 17, 1976 and devastated more than 700 kilometers of coastline bordering Moro Gulf in the North Celebes Sea. It was an earthquake that resulted in massive destruction of properties and great loss of lives. Provinces of Cotabato then took the brunt of the earthquake while the tsunami generated massively affected the coastal area of Datu Blah Sinsuat.

To prepare the municipality of Datu Blah Sinsuat in case of earthquake or tsunami, a multi-hazard simulation drill was conducted at Barangay Penansaran on August 25, 2022. The exercise simulated the occurrence of a magnitude 8.0 earthquake followed by an 8-10 meters height of tsunami generated by the movement of the Cotabato trench in the Moro Gulf. Participants from the regional and local governments (BARMM-Readi, MDRRMO, RHU DBS), government agencies, (PHIVOLCS, BFP, PNP, PAF TOG-12) and the Marines from 25MC, MBLT-5, and 1MBde actively took part and made the drill realistic and timely. The participants were able to know and experience the importance of "Duck, Cover, and Hold" during an earthquake and safe evacuation to high ground during a tsunami.

The drill prepared the communities along the shoreline so they know what to do in case of a disaster. It also increased the knowledge of participants from various government agencies on how to better respond to earthquakes and tsunamis. Hon. Datu Marshall Sinsuat, Mayor of Datu Blah Sinsuat, greatly appreciated the efforts and participation of everyone in conducting such a relevant and successful activity.



A Token Tank

BY: 1LT KENNETH JIC S GABUCAY PN(M)

“If you knew what I know about the power of giving, you would not let a single meal pass without sharing it anyway. - Buddha

Communities alongside the Moro Gulf

Datu Blah Sinsuat (DBS) is a coastal municipality located in the province of Maguindanao, which lies alongside the Cotabato Trench and the Moro Gulf. The 25th Marine Company (25MC), Marine Battalion Landing Team-5 (MBLT-5), 1st Marine Brigade area of operations is composed of the thirteen barangays of DBS. Eight of these barangays are accessible via water assets, while the mainland requires hours of strenuous walk before reaching the far-flung sitios of each barangay.

The local populace in the municipality of DBS is composed of the Teduray tribe from the hinterlands, Tausug in the area of Barangay Linao, and the rest are the Maguindanaon.

Service, a life-long commitment

Eager to help provide basic needs and services for the people and in consonance with the MBLT-5 mission to conduct Development Support and Security Operations, the 25MC collaborated with the Junior Chambers International of Cotabato (JCI - Cotabato), 1404th Regional Mobile Force Battalion - Provincial Mobile Force Company (RMFB14 - PMFC), Datu Blah Sinsuat - Local government Unit (DBS - LGU) and the

Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MIPA - BARMM) in providing community services, dubbed as ALL-IN-ONE MISSION, on July 17, 2022, at Datu Sa Biwang Elementary School, Barangay Matuber, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao. These services included free haircut, food feeding, medical and dental mission, and distribution of school supplies to the Teduray children.

The activity was led by Maj. Melchor A. Gonzaludo PN(M), Commanding Officer, MBLT-5 and Mrs. Samira S. Mustapha, District Supervisor. Other participants were Ms. Cathleya Diocolano, President of Taga Cotabato Ka Kung Inc. (TCKKI), Mrs. Bainorshalam L. Guinomla, President of JCI Cotabato Inc., Chief of Police, DBS - Municipal Police Station, and Barangay Chairman of Barangay Matuber, Hon. Joel M. Bello.

An angel in disguise

A day prior to the activity, many of the participants travelled a grueling 3-hour walk from their respective sitio and opted to stay overnight at the venue to ensure they take part in the activity.

The All-in-One mission conducted at Barangay Matuber was only one of the many activities done by MBLT-5 to help fellow countrymen,



especially the children and IPs, who are greatly in need. The locals appreciated the care and support provided during the activity. Some of the children even prepared an intermission number to show their heartfelt gratitude toward every individual responsible for the outreach program. The children and their parents' smiles and laughter were priceless. The outpour of gratitude was truly humbling. They expressed, "Thank you po Marines. Balik po kayo ulit," and "Iba talaga pag Marines,

complete package na lahat."

This is how the MBLT-5 showcased its way of caring for the needy. It creates a positive impact in the community as it gives them the perception that the Marines do not only focus on terrorism, insurgency, and the pursuit of lawless elements but also on the welfare of the people in the community. A clinical psychologist George R. Bach once said, "Caring has the gift of making the ordinary

special." Despite their struggles, the simple words of gratitude from the beneficiaries of the All-in-One Mission serve as an inspiration and fuel the determination of every Marine who commits to selfless service for the country and the people. We will always find a way to continuously do more, give more, care more, and will always remain in the shadows watching as an angel in disguise.

BATTLE READY MARINES: Laging Handa

BY: MAJ LAURENCE M SANTILLAN PN(M)

In times of peace, prepare for war - Sun Tzu.

The unit's leadership has only two things in mind. The first is to see to it that missions and tasks are done and the second is to ensure that the unit has battle-ready Marines. Such readiness is affected by the availability of facilities, equipment, and training.

Despite being transferred to several locations, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-5 (MBLT-5) sees to it that mission essential facilities are constructed immediately with priority. These ensures the Battalion is able to house mission-essential equipment and training necessary for mission-capable operators. After establishing enough appropriate facilities, the unit sees to it that mission essential equipment such as mobility, training aids equipment, and other apparatuses are in their operational status. In its current peacetime operation, the MBLT-5 takes the opportunity to continuously train its Marines as an individual, team, and as a unit.

With the availability of required facilities, operational equipment at its peak, and mission-essential trained Marines, the MBLT-5 and 1st Marine Brigade as a whole are always committed to having battle-ready Marines ("Laging Handa") to attend to any situation anytime and anywhere.

A WAR OF THE MIND:

Defeating the CPP-NPA Propaganda

By: Marine Battalion Landing Team-3



Relentless Focus Military Operations finally led to a decisive encounter and surrender of the remaining New People's Army (NPA) of KLG-North (Komite sa Larangang Gerilya – North) in Palawan. With the commander running rogue, it is highly unlikely he will prosper on the island. The enemy is expected to rebuild the NPA from their mass bases. Following the successful dismantling of the last NPA unit in Palawan, it is imperative to intensify civil-military operations.

Ralph Casey argued: "An appeal to force alone is not regarded as enough in the twentieth century to win final and lasting victory." After decades of communist terror reign, it was a feat for the Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MBLT-3) to finally dismantle the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG). MBLT-3 has worked so hard to achieve peace and it is committed to making it last.

The key is to ensure that there will be no space in the hearts and minds of the Palaweños for the CTG to rebuild. With that in mind, it is a must for the unit to master the art of psychological warfare—an arena the CTG proved to be quite adept with.

No Room to Recover

Since its conception, the

terrorist Communist Party of the Philippines practiced the art of deception and artifice to build a cult of supporters and eventually recruit them into their armed group. Whatever strength the CPP-NPA developed throughout its 50 years is built from a complex system of lies and propaganda.

On the island, the CTG has been using mass media, social media, youth groups, and rallies as avenues to agitate the youth and other sectors, provoke state security forces, and maliciously manipulate public opinion on state policies and sensitive issues in their favor. Rallies were often staged by the Reds as a show of force, a parade of the strength of their influence. For the longest time, the people's legitimate issues were weaponized by these communist terrorists to weaken the support of the Filipino masses to the government and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The Red monopoly on mass mobilization has come to its bitter end. They were not the only players in the arena of propaganda. The only difference is, in AFP propaganda, there are no lies, only truth.

D-Day

On March 29, 2022, simultaneous protests took place in

four different municipalities in Northern Palawan. It was the day of the notorious NPA anniversary, but the protests were not for them, rather it was against them.

It was D-day: a day of denouncement of support. Simultaneous indignation rallies were held in four municipalities, led by the Marines and former NPA rebels and supporters. They condemned the atrocities and deceptive recruitment operations of the CTGs.

In Roxas, the headquarters and service company of the MBLT-3 unit initiated an indignation rally at the covered court of Barangay Minara. With former rebel Ka Rohan shedding light on the corrupt practices of the CTG, around 300 residents united in condemnation of the CPP-NPA's deceptive recruitment and inhumane atrocities. Barangay officials, along with the leaders of Sangguniang Kabataan, and the 2nd Provincial Police Mobile Force Company (PPMFC), gave official statements declaring the CTG as persona non grata and led the program of the indignation rally. The residents held placards and chanted, "CPP-NPA-NDF, itakwil!", while the barangay officials with the 2nd PPMFC and MBLT-3 led the burning of the CTG flags.

In Taytay, the 3rd Marine



Former rebels receive E-CLIP benefits, thank government troops

By: Marine Battalion Landing Team-3

“Our former comrades lied to us about E-CLIP. When we were still in the mountains, NPA officials told us that the armed forces corrupted these E-CLIP benefits and took it for themselves and yet now we receive them in full and so much more. I realize now they deceived us. To the Marines, we cannot thank you enough.” -Ka Celine

With the consecutive surrenders of the remaining Communist NPA Terrorists (CNT) in Northern Palawan, the 3rd Marine Brigade (3MBde) and Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MBLT-3) ensure that all surrendered rebels received their benefits. The government’s Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) and Local Social Integration Program (LSIP) provide much-needed immediate assistance to former rebels. E-CLIP and LSIP are the government’s programs to help reintegrate former rebels to the community.

All regular CNT members, Militiang Bayan, and their dependents are qualified to receive these benefits should they surrender. Each former rebel is entitled to Php 15,000.00 immediate assistance, Php 50,000.00 livelihood assistance, NHA housing assistance, firearms remuneration, and government services.

Ka Jo, former medical officer of the New Peoples’ Army (NPA), was recruited in Bataraza when she was only 19. She was not able to finish high school. She was also at risk with COVID-19 when she was deployed to Mindoro to attend a medical training. NPAs had no access to vaccination. Now that she surrendered, Marine troops ensure that she and her husband, Ka Guillier, receive complete COVID-19 vaccination and have access to government services such as government ID issuance, financial aid, and housing

assistance. Currently, Ka Jo just moved up from Grade 9 and is currently enrolled in an open high school to finish Grade 10. “Pangarap ko talaga ang maging doctor. Sa tulong ng mga Marines, baka hindi pa huli ang lahat.”

Kate Raca, also known as Ka Celine, former political officer, is happy that she and her fellow surrendered friends are in good hands. “Ka Rise and Miggy lied to us about E-CLIP to stop us from surrendering. As I sift through lie after lie, I am more and more content and at peace that I returned to the folds of law. A message to other NPAs in Southern Tagalog: Stop believing the lies the CPP-NPA tell you. The government efficiently implements E-CLIP and LSIP to former rebels. There is no corruption in these programs. They really want peace for everyone—and a better life for us. No lies there,” Kate says this message is for the NPAs, especially her friends from the University of the Philippines, who took up arms in Southern Tagalog.

As these former rebels’ transition to normalcy, government troops and agencies provide legal assistance to those who have cases filed against them. Through all the phases of their reformed life, the government and its armed forces support them and work with them for long-lasting peace.

Company also led an indignation rally of similar nature. Along with Taytay Municipal Police Station, PNP Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB), Bureau of Fire Protection, Barangay officials, and the Taytay municipal government, the Marines led a program at the covered court of Barangay Poblacion. Former CTG member Maria shared her testimony and along with hundreds of residents, rallied to condemn the CTG recruitment operations. Taytay would never forget Justine Ella Vargas, a young Palaweña teen who died in an encounter in Mindoro. She was recruited by the Bienvenido Valleber Command in Taytay. In grave condemnation, the residents burned the CTG flags to conclude the program.

In San Vicente, the 33rd Marine Company also led an indignation rally. At the covered court gym of New Site, Barangay Caruray, the barangay officials, Sangguniang Kabataan, municipal government, 401st RMFB, and the Indigenous Peoples led a program to denounce the CTG. Two former rebels, Ka Guillier and Ka Sandra, shed light on the notorious operations of the CTG in the area and their deceitful way of recruitment. CTG flags were burned in their pledge to never accept the terrorist group in the locale.

In El Nido, the 23rd Marine Company also rallied the residents

against CPP-NPA recruitment. United, the Marines, the El Nido Municipal Police Station, 41st Naval Group Reserve (NGR), barangay officials, Kabataan Kontra Droga at Terorismo (KKDAT) local chapter, and the locals of Barangay Corong-Corong held an indignation rally, vowing to help in ending its 53-year reign of terror. The local leaders also symbolically burned the CTG flags.

March 29 was a historic day for the Palaweños. Decisively, the local populace actively took part in the fight against the communist terrorists by denouncing them and declaring them persona non grata on their supposed 53rd anniversary. It was a positive sign—there is hope yet for lasting peace on the island.

Strengthening Barriers

The success of the indignation rallies is merely the result of efficient facilitation of mass surrenders, identification of key issues in the formerly influenced communities, and relentless community support programs. Smooth coordination with other state security forces, non-government organizations, local government units, and local government agencies also played a key part.

Rallying the masses (especially

former supporters) against the CPP-NPA was a masterful move to break the morale of enemy fighters. From a military perspective, the unit was successful in establishing psychological barriers against the enemy.

Weaponizing mass protests (their weapon of choice in psychological warfare) against the CPP-NPA gives them a taste of their own medicine and a slap back to the reality that the masses do not support them anymore. The testimonies and earnest coordination provided by the former rebels were instrumental in establishing credibility and gaining back the trust and confidence of former supporters.

This year alone, 10 formerly influenced barangays in Northern Palawan held indignation rallies against the CPP-NPA. A total of 89,894 individuals from different municipalities bore witness to these protests. MBLT-3 will continue these efforts in civil-military operations to achieve genuine, lasting peace.

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDES FRESH START FOR FORMER REBELS

By: 3rd Marine Brigade

The Provincial Government of Palawan and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), together with the 3rd Marine Brigade (3MBde) and the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) Committee, granted the distribution of financial assistance to former rebels.

The awarding of livelihood assistance was held on August 19, 2022 at the Provincial Capitol. A total of 31 former rebels were granted financial assistance – 15 of them received P25,000.00 cash grant from the Palawan Provincial Government through the Local Social Integration Program (LSIP), while 16 received P65,000.00 cash grant from the E-CLIP of the DILG. A former rebel who surrendered 12 firearms to the government also received cash assistance worth P1M as remuneration for every firearm surrendered.

The financial assistance was personally handed by the DILG Palawan Provincial Director, a representative from the governor's office, 3MBde, Palawan Provincial Police Office, and Palawan Social Welfare Development Office (PSWDO).

The LSIP of the Provincial Government of Palawan, which is managed by PSWDO, was activated and implemented by the provincial Government in 2013 and was able to grant financial assistance to rebel returnees who returned back to the folds of the law. This program continues to provide financial aid to former rebels. To date, 210 beneficiaries have been given financial grants.

Through these government tools, former rebels are able to receive financial aid and livelihood assistance

that would greatly help them transition back to mainstream society and start their new life together with their families as productive and law-abiding citizens.

A former rebel a.k.a., Ka Stik, expressed his gratitude to the government, especially to the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the renewed hope and another chance to live a normal life, recover from the lost time with their families, and assistance for a new opportunity that could help them start a new life in the community.

Commander, 3MBde, BGen. Jimmy D. Larida PN(M), conveyed that the program is a clear manifestation of the government's sincerity to end local armed conflict in the province. "These former rebels are our brothers, they are victims of wrong ideologies and decisions. They have been exploited by Communists Terrorists Groups and they deserve to catch up with their families and live a normal life," Larida said.

Larida emphasized the right decision of the former rebels to return back to the government and expressed his gratitude for the concerted efforts of the Provincial Government of Palawan and the Palawan Task Force ELCAC that were able to identify the prevailing issues and concerns exploited by Communist Terrorist Groups and thereby address responsively the root causes of insurgency, which is essential in promoting a conflict resilient community.



A LEGACY OF CHANGE

By: 4th Marine Brigade

“

People respond in accordance to how you relate to them if you approach them on the basis of violence, that is how they'll react. But if you say, we want peace, we want stability, we can then do a lot of things that will contribute towards the progress of our society. - Nelson Mandela

The presence of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) under the 4th Marine Brigade (4MBde) at Brgy. Tandubato in Luuk, Sulu since its activation on June 24, 2019 paved way for a better relationship with the community. Its programs and projects in collaboration with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) had contributed to the progress of peace and development in the communities. The interventions undertaken by 4MBde to clear the 2nd District of Sulu from the presence of the Lawless Terrorist Group yielded more than a hundred Abu Sanyaf Group (ASG) surrenderers and helped them participate in various programs to improve the quality of their lives. In collaboration with LGUs and NGOs, training on sustainable livelihood was introduced to the families to ensure a continuous source of income that will help them out of poverty.

Women dependents of ASG returnees were introduced to women empowerment projects through sustainable livelihood. Through the collaboration with SINAGTALA Center for Children and Women Incorporation, they were trained in hand-weaving Tausug-patterned cloths to preserve their cultural heritage. This provided them with skills that changed their perspective of being mendicants to more reliable, self-sufficient, and productive individuals.

Road recovery and agricultural programs have been initiated by the unit to change the mindset of 4Ps beneficiaries and allowed them to volunteer in community-oriented activities of cleaning, weeding, and beautification of roads in their barangays. The people were taught to domesticate their cattle and be responsible raisers. As a

result, roads have been continuously cleaned from grasses and other road impediments making these more passable for commuters and less prone to accidents.

Six batches of project Prepare That Kid 2.0 were launched in collaboration with the LGUs and NGOs to intensify the drive of the youth to learn. The unit invited 125 kids aged 7 – 10 years old from the various municipalities of the 2nd District of Sulu for a 3-day youth camp. Leadership skills, character building, values formation, discipline, love of country, and patriotism were taught. The youth are being empowered to become future positive influencers, skilled leaders, and wise decision-makers contributing to a more peaceful and progressive Sulu Province.

The developments in the 2nd District of Sulu provide its residents with a peaceful atmosphere. Riders and bikers can now traverse on paved roads connected to all communities unhampered and without fear of their security. Residents enjoy strolling at night on a well-lighted road.

The 4MBde introduced the game of golf to the locals as they constructed a Golf Driving Range accessible to all 24/7. Finally, as a testament of the quest for lasting peace and development, the unit helped conceptualize and construct the Military Park Luuk in partnership with the office of the 2nd District of Sulu representative, Hon. Munir Arbison. Local residents can now visit the Military Park to unwind and embrace what life has to offer even as they pay their respects to heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the name of PEACE.

Photo Gallery

TEAM

Train and Educate
Equip and Integrate
Assess and Evaluate
Maintain and Develop



MARINES

Mission ready at all times
Adaptable
Reliable
Innovative
Nationalistic
Excellent
Selflessly serving the nation

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

KATUNGLUKAN



“Treat the people well, teach them the sweetness of peace so that they can love it and maintain it.” – Jose Rizal



Military Park Luuk - A Gift to the people of Sulu

By: 4th Marine Brigade

The Military Park Luuk (MPL), a partnership between the 4th Marine “Makusug” Brigade (4MBde) under the Command of then Col. Vicente Mark Anthony P. Blanco PN(M) and the Office of the 2nd District Representative of Sulu with Hon. Munir M. Arbison, is a gift to the people of Sulu.

The concept of a military park was born out of Col. Blanco’s aversion to military relics being left exposed to the elements; in this case, the decommissioned Philippine Marine Corps’ Landing Vehicle Tracked (LVT), which saw action in previous campaigns in Sulu and left inside the Kuta Heneral Teodulfo Bautista (KHTB) in Jolo, Sulu.

Col. Blanco came up with the concept of a military park where a monument is to be erected in honor of the Filipino soldiers and Lupah Sug warriors who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the campaigns in Sulu. He thought of featuring military relics and significant representations or dioramas of civil-military activities.

The concept and design of the park was presented to Congressman Arbison, who agreed, without second thoughts, to its construction and subsequent maintenance. He offered the space and ensured funding for the project by directing his personnel and requesting the Municipality of Luuk to provide the necessary assistance.

The 4MBde Project Management Team – Military Park Luuk (PMT-MPL) was then established to oversee the completion of this undertaking with Cpt. Kelly A. Regalado PN(M) as the Project Officer; 1Lt. John Arshie C. Montero PN(M) as the Assistant Project Officer, and; Maj. Gaylord

G. Celiz P(M) as the Project Liaison Officer. The PMT-MPL Working Groups were organized with personnel from the Headquarters 4MBde, Marine Battalion Landing Teams 7 and 8, Combat Service Support Task Group-4, MCIC-4, 62nd Force Reconnaissance Company, CMO Unit-Naval Forces Western Mindanao, and MCT-NFWM in accordance with the work breakdown structure of the project: groundworks and landscaping; restoration and rehabilitation; masonry, stone and concrete works. This was led and supervised by the designated working group leaders: Cpt. Mary-Ann S. Domacena PN(M); Cpt. Jerwin N. Cestina PN(M); TSg Arnel B. Martinez PN(M); SSg. Eddie D. Fuentes PN(M); Sgt. Vincent M. Fernandez PN(M); MSg. Jefferson A. Claro PN(M); TSg. Angelito R. Luna PN(M); SSg. Bernard SP Madueno PN(M); Sgt. Augustine B. Hangdaan PN(M); and Sgt. Jimmy S. Caong PN(M). The Brigade Executive Committee composed of Col. Jonathan C. Gabor PN(M), Lt. Col. Allan Angelo C. Tolentino PN(M), and Maj. Joseph L. Orantes PN(M) synchronized the work schedule of the PMT-MPL and its working group with that of the Brigade’s programmed activities during the period, thus, ensuring the smooth completion and accomplishment of the project.

The “recovery” of the LVT at KHTB, Jolo for transfer to Luuk was initiated on April 21, 2022. The actual groundwork, laying/digging of foundations, and pouring of concrete started on May 13, 2022.

The partnership in the construction and subsequent upkeep of the park is covered with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which defined the theme, placements and orientations, colors, plants/ornaments, and materials used for the relics/dioramas on display. No changes are to be

made without the consensus of the signatory parties or their authorized representatives. Copies of the MOA, development plan, and names of military and civilian personnel involved in this project are in an encased time capsule below the MPL marker at the entrance of the park.

The MPL was inaugurated on June 12, 2022 with a formal flag raising and wreath laying ceremony with various local chief executives and government representatives, led by the Rep. Arbison and hosted by the 4MBde led by the Brigade Commander. Since then, it has been the venue of activities of national importance such as the National Heroes Day on August 29, 2022 with no less than the Commandant,

Philippine Marine Corps and the Commander, Joint Task Force Sulu as Principals with local officials and other military commanders in Sulu. The MPL has become a landmark for tourists to visit. Noticeably, people are spending time understanding the narratives on the markers as they take photographs, which have been flooding the social media and further creating awareness as to its existence. Truly, the intent of having the MPL is now being achieved and is made possible with the absence of conflicts in Sulu as the clamor for peace and development amongst the people reigns.





A SIGHT OF HOPE

By: Mr. Emry J. Sadicon Toralde

The Sulu sunset is one of the most amazing, beautiful, and captivating events God has created. For me, it was a breathtaking and scintillating 15 seconds of pure bliss by just adoring how beautiful the orange to pink hues of the sky kissing the clouds and the horizon. The sun slowly lowers itself until the Sulu islands engulf the sun and the once bright colorful sky is now black and plain signaling the start of the night.

A beautiful sight indeed, but as the saying goes, we don't know what we have until we lose it; blindness steals this from us, it steals how we can appreciate simple things like witnessing the sun setting, seeing our favorite movie, or simply witnessing our kids grow.

From the August 26 to 27, 2022, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-7 (MBLT-7), with its partners, the Rotary Club of San Marcelino, Eye, and Ear Foundation, Jade Badjao Center Inc., Football for Peace, other healthcare volunteers, and the Local Government Unit of Luuk, Sulu, held a 2-day Medical Mission and Football for Peace activity on the grounds of Camp Andres Central Elementary School, Barangay Tubig Putih, Luuk, Sulu.

One of the activities is the eye and ear check-up with cataract surgery. Several people who underwent the screening for cataract surgery but there were only six who passed the screening and are due to go under the knife and recover what has been lost for years.... their eyesight.

Patients were hesitant at first because of fear, misinformation, and financial constraints. There were only six who are brave and determined enough to restoring their eyesight. Their determination paid off and six patients successfully restored their eyesight without complications.

A very touching event that took place on that day was that of patient Sahibal Damil, who is 65 years of age and a resident of Luuk, Sulu. He was totally blind for four years because of cataract and this forced him to quit farming. He was one of the successful patients who received free cataract extraction from Dr. Detalla.

On the 27th, patient Damil was very delighted and ecstatic about the possibility of seeing again. He was frequently looking up and down in amazement and was

wearing his signature smile all day. It was very evident that he was excited and at the same time very impressed with his restored vision. We followed him home, hoping to see his reaction and how his family would react to their father's restored eyesight. He went home with hope, love, and happiness from what he got from the services. It did not disappoint his family, especially his wife whom he did not see for a long time. The known lolo Sahibal at home touched the face of his wife and kissed her. We saw how happy and blessed he is to see his wife again. He was welcomed with great joy by the members of his household.

They were very happy that their father has restored his vision and can now see his children and grandchildren. With clear eyesight, he can now do his family responsibilities.

My heart also melted during the interview with his wife. Mrs. Sahibal also has an eye problem, a pterygium. She was okay as of the moment and happier that her husband had his vision restored. It was a heart-warming moment letting us realize that unconditional love still exists and that the wife gave way to her husband.

The Sahibal family was very thankful. Sahibal's family thanks the Commanding Officer of MBLT-7, Lt. Col. John Paul S. Jacla PN(M), Dra. Detalla, Ate Inday Erana, and Tita Domarie Suniga. Mr. Sahibal said, "I will forever be grateful and will always pray that you all have a long and prosperous life."

This is definitely our whys...why are we going to the missions? Why are we going to far-flung areas? We do these to help our fellow countrymen who seem helpless and hopeless with their current situation and provide them with immediate answers to their problems.

Now with his restored eyesight, lolo Sahibal may once again enjoy and witness the beauty and grace that only the Sulu sunset can provide, and more importantly see his children and grandchildren grow to be good and responsible citizens.



Football for Peace and Medical Mission 2022 launched in Sulu

By: Marine Battalion Landing Team-7

PANAMA, Sulu – The Marine Battalion Landing Team-7 (MBLT-7), in collaboration with Football for Peace Volunteers, medical volunteers, and local government units in the second district of Sulu, spearheaded a "Football for Peace and Medical Mission 2022" activity dubbed, "Our goal is Peace, Our way is Football," for youth participants aged from 12 to 16 years old and locals in the second district of Sulu, which was held at Camp Andres Central Elementary School (CACES), Barangay Tubig-Putih, Luuk, Sulu, on August 26-27, 2022.

The two-day event was part of the unit's youth development program aimed at developing and molding our youths to become productive and responsible citizens through sports discipline and values education. Former Congressman Munir M. Arbison Sr. and Luuk Vice Mayor Al-Makram Arbison graced the event and led the Ceremonial Football Kick-Off, which signaled the start of the friendly football competition. Eighteen teams from the first and second districts of Sulu competed in the Football for Peace event.

The successful teams and individuals were as follows: Team 37MC and 4B Camp Andres Central Elem School, Luuk – 3rd runner-up; Team 27MC and 2D, Panamao – 2nd runner-up; Team 27MC and 3C, Panamao – 1st runner-up; and Team 1101st and 3A, Talipao – Champion. Fradzmer Isiram of Team Kalingalan Caluang was selected as the Most Valuable Player and Alsamer Espinosa was the Best Goal Keeper from Team 4B Camp Andres Central Elem School, Luuk.

On the same day, a medical mission was conducted by volunteers who provided free health consultation and medical and dental services. These catered to the following: general medical service (750 persons), dental service (100 persons), pedia consultation (701 persons), general medical consultation for adults (800 persons), circumcision (32

persons), distribution of medicines (1,500 persons), eye and ear consultation (80 persons), and cataract operations (6 persons). Other community services included registration of national ID (44 persons), free haircut (150 persons), distribution of toys (500 persons), books (400 persons), school supplies (400 persons), food feeding (600 persons), and mobile library (200 persons).

To cap off the day, the locals of Luuk were serenaded in an event dubbed, "A Night to Remember Concert," featuring Tenor and classical singer Manolito Saldivar and national performer Khayle Doe Pael Alpeche.

The unit owes the success of this high-impact activity to the supportive and generous sponsors and volunteers from LGU Luuk; 2nd District of Sulu; Provincial Government of Sulu, Jade's Bajau Learning Center; Eye Hear Foundation; Rotary Club of San Marcelino; Rotaract Club of San Marcelino; Football for Peace Volunteers; Luuk District Hospital; KHTB Dental Team and Doctors; Doctors for the Barrios; Rural Health Unit; and volunteers from Manila, Dumaguete, Bacolod, Zamboanga, and Tawi-Tawi.





COMBAT AND SERVICE SUPPORT BRIGADE HOLDS FUND DRIVE FOR WOUNDED MARINES

By: Combat and Service Support Brigade

In consonance with the 72nd Marine Corps anniversary celebration on November 7, 2022, the Combat and Service Support Brigade (CSSB) based in the Latin City of the South conducted series of activities to commemorate the much-anticipated event.

Among the activities of CSSB was the “Fun Walk and Run with the Marines 3,” which aimed at generating funds for the rehabilitation of wounded comrades in combat and for the educational scholarship for the orphans of fallen marine heroes. With the theme, “Tulong sa Edukasyon para sa mga Naulila ng Mandirigmang Marino”, the event shows CSSB’s commitment of support.

In partnership with the Zamboanga Runner’s Club, the event, participated by various multi-sectoral groups, was held within the vicinity of the famous Butterfly Garden, Pasonanca, Zamboanga City on September 11, 2022.

Former Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) and now Chairperson of the Philippine Marine Corps Foundation, Inc (PMCFI), Lt. Gen. Juancho M. Sabban PN(M)(Ret), in his message during the event, emphasized the values of looking into one another as brothers-in-arms.

The P100,000 generated during the event will support various projects that will serve beneficiaries and dependents of Marines who were either killed or wounded especially during the Zamboanga Siege in 2013, the crisis in Marawi in 2017, and in other deployment areas across the country, remarked by Lt. Gen. Sabban.

On September 18, 2022, the CSSB conducted the Fun Bike with the Marines 3 event themed, “Padyak Ko, Alay sa Iyo, Sugatang Mandirigmang Marino,” in cooperation with the Zamboanga Bikers’ Club and other partners and sponsors.

The event, which was a huge success, was participated by 600+ bike enthusiasts from all over the Zamboanga Peninsula Region. Various government agencies, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and private entities conveyed their all-out support by sending participants to join the event from KCC Mall de Zamboanga in Santa Maria to Azzura Beach Resort, Barangay Bolong, all in Zamboanga City.

The activity generated P100,000 to be dedicated for the rehabilitation of wounded marines in combat and the educational scholarship program of the orphans of fallen marine heroes through the Philippine Marine Corps Officer’s Wives and Spouses Association, Inc. (PMCOSAI).

The Brigade Commander of CSSB, Col. Nestor E. Narag Jr. PN(M)(GSC), expressed utmost gratitude to the organizers, participants and donors for their cooperation, which immensely contributed to the success of both activities.

“Your steadfast support for the endeavors of our unit continues to inspire us to do more than what is expected from us,” remarked Col. Narag Jr. “Each one of you played a significant role in perfecting our mandate of securing our country for the betterment of every Filipino citizen”, he continued.

Both activities were very successful as these achieved the desired goals to rally the support of multi-sectoral groups within the vicinity of the CSSB unit, generate funds for those Philippine Marine servicemen who offered their lives for a good cause, and pursue and fulfill the current Commandant’s Command Philosophy of TEAM MARINES, thereby maintaining and developing a physique and stamina to be physically and mentally prepared whenever needed.



TEAM CSSB JOINS BRIGADA ESKWELA 2022

By: Combat and Service Support Brigade

Team Combat and Service Support Brigade (CSSB) of the Philippine Marines Corps took part in Brigada Eskwela 2022 within the Zamboanga City Schools Division under the Department of Education’s (DepEd) Brigada Eskwela Program across the country.

As part of their social responsibility, the CSSB took the initiative to be part of the Brigada Eskwela activities of Zamboanga Central School Special Education (SPED) Center and Talon-Talon Central School SPED Center on August 6 and 13, 2022, respectively. The CSSB personnel partnered with barangay officials, parents, students, and other stakeholders in making both activities a success.

This year’s theme, “Brigada Eskwela: Tugon sa Hamon ng Ligtas na Balik-Aral,” aptly aligned with CSSB personnel’s responsibility for the security and well-being of the

people in their jurisdiction. The DepEd’s call to all education stakeholders for collaboration in preparing pandemic-ready schools runs parallel with CSSB’s relentless effort to unite people in advancing lasting peace and sustainable development.

The CSSB personnel’s participation in the makeover of classrooms, chairs, chalkboards, other school facilities and its surroundings demonstrates that the personnel of this unit are not only best in training and administrative command but they can also be relied upon as vital partners for community development. Time and again, they have shown their commitment to working with civilian communities in pursuit of a common good.

MAKING PANGLIMA SUGALA A DRUG-FREE MUNICIPALITY



Tagapagtanggol Battalion ushers in peace and development in Tawi-Tawi

By: Marine Battalion Landing Team-12

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 (MBLT-12), known as the "Tagapagtanggol Battalion", has been deployed in the Area of Operations of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi (JTFT) since June 2020 after its completion of retraining and refurbishing phase at the Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Taguig City. For more than two years of its deployment in Tawi-Tawi, the Tagapagtanggol Battalion has made various remarkable feats. The unit's active role in security operations and nation-building has become evident with the continuous growth in the economy, tourism, and peace and stability in the province.

MBLT-12 spearheaded various military operations as well as law enforcement support operations with its partners and stakeholders. These accomplishments include the implementation of the following: Operation Eel, Operation Sinapang, Operation Milikan, Operation Gallium, and other operations that significantly contribute to the improved peace, security, and tourism in the province.

Likewise, being deployed in the country's territorial border with a porous maritime environment, incidents of smuggling, drug trade, and

human trafficking are rampant. The close partnership and collaboration with the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine Coast Guard, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and other government agencies and non-government organizations ensure the enforcement of national and local laws.

In CY2022, these collaborations have resulted in the successful rescue of 22 trafficked persons, arrest of 32 undocumented individuals who were engaged in smuggling activities, and the confiscation of various contrabands with an estimated total value of P210M as pegged by the Bureau of Customs.

Apart from the aforementioned accomplishment, MBLT-12 has also been instrumental in the implementation of the programs for Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in compliance with RA 10591, the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, that resulted in the recovery, surrender, and capture of loose firearms totaling to 34 from January 2022 to date.

In the aspect of Civil-Military Operations, MBLT-12 has become an integral component in the socio-

economic development of the province. Various significant endeavors aimed at alleviating the living condition of communities particularly those situated in far-flung areas have been successfully undertaken. These include the Barangay Action Care for Tawi-Tawians (Brgy. ACT), "Basura palit-bigas", Barangay Marines, Children's Playground, Election Duties, cleft palate operations, several All-in-One Missions, and instrumental in the COVID-19 vaccine roll-outs, which resulted to the highest outcome numbers of vaccinated people in BARMM.

The Tagapagtanggol Battalion accomplished a number of tangible projects to improve the education system, livelihood, health facilities, religious and cultural heritage, and commerce through the formidable collaboration with the unit's internal and external stakeholders. Thus, the unwavering commitment of every Marine of the Tagapagtanggol Battalion is noteworthy as everyone aspires for an enjoyable, peaceful, and progressive Tawi-Tawi province.



Barangay Magsaggaw in Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi is home to peaceful, loving, and industrious people aiming to make their community a better place to live in. However, this community is challenged by the prevalence of illegal drugs.

On August 24, 2022, joint personnel of the 1st Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team-1, led by Cpt. Criser P. Ilagan PN(M), Commanding Officer, together with the personnel of Panglima Sugala Police, conducted foot and mobile security patrol at Upper Malum, Brgy. Magsaggaw. This is in response to the sporadic fires made by lawless elements in the area that forced some residents to leave their houses and farms fearing for worst scenarios. The operation resulted in the apprehension of eight lawless personalities, war materiel, illegal drugs, and other documents and items for their terroristic actions.

The team effort of the Marines and Police in protecting the people against lawless elements and illegal activities is noteworthy for promoting peace and order. The continuous security efforts of this unit, together with other law enforcement agencies, will be sustained.



1LT MARK T BALDAZAN PN(M)

Acting Commanding Officer, 1st Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team-1



Unang Hakbang Sa Kalakasan

“Education is the best treasure for ourselves and cannot be stolen by others.” - Anonymous



The Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 (MBLT-1), together with the GMA Kapuso Foundation Inc., distributed school supplies and hygiene kits to Kindergarten and Grade-1 pupils of select school beneficiaries in the municipalities of Sapa-Sapa, Tandubas, and South Ubian in Tawi-Tawi on August 5-10, 2022. This was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education Tawi-Tawi, Philippine Navy ship, Patrol Craft 393, East-South Ubian District, Tandubas District, Sapa-Sapa District, Banaran District, Tabawan Municipal Police, Tandubas Municipal Police, Sapa-Sapa Municipal Police, and Barangay Peace-Keeping Action Troops of the three municipalities.

Each pupil received a bag, set of notebooks, pad paper, pencils, sharpener, coloring materials, alcohol, hand soap, and face mask. This effort, which reached out to 2,000 pupils, was in connection with the community relations and civic action activities of MBLT-1.

The coordination with the GMAKFI representatives, local governments, and the education sector and the efforts of every person during hauling and transportation of the school supplies and hygiene kits to the school beneficiaries made the activity possible.

It was very fulfilling seeing the children, along with their teachers and parents, smiling while receiving their supplies. Through this activity, we are building a child's dream, of what they want to become as they take their first step in learning at school. This certainly contributed to the establishment of genuine relations with the community.

With this, MBLT-1 in Tawi-Tawi is known to be ready to serve, ANYTIME.



1LT GLEN D GABERTAN PN(M)

Acting Commanding Officer, 21st Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team-1



MBLT-1 SETS SOVEREIGNTY MARKER IN TAWI-TAWI

It has been more than a year since the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 (MBLT-1) was redeployed from Sulu to the province of Tawi-Tawi. The Battalion's advance party arrived at the Naval Station Juan Magluyan, Brgy. Batu-Batu in Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi on July 31, 2021. Upon arrival in Tawi-Tawi province, MBLT-1 established and deployed its unit in a strategic location. The strategy of MBLT-1 has been realigned for it to complement and be in parallel with the 2nd Marine Brigade's campaign



plan. Establishing detachment, identifying Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas, and strategic locations became the utmost priority of the battalion.

Tahaw, otherwise known as Pearl Bank, is the farthest islet of the MBLT-1's area of responsibility. Pearl Bank Island is manned by the 31st Marine Company led by 1Lt. Dindo M. Maniago PN(M). The island has a population of around a thousand people, most of them identified as Badjau. The area is located North West, approximately a distance of about 42.16 nautical miles from the mainland Languyan, Tawi-Tawi. Of all the island detachments of the battalion, Pearl Bank is deemed to be one of the strategic places. There is a need for it to be defended by the Marines from any national and foreign threats as Pearl Bank is in close proximity with Malaysia.

BGen. Romeo T. Racadio PN(M), Commander, 2nd Marine Brigade (2MBde), ordered the setting up of a sovereignty marker on Baabag-Sahasa Island by MBLT-1, led by its Commanding Officer, Maj. Rick L. Ganuelas PN(M).

On June 25, 2022, the Marines in Tawi-Tawi, spearheaded by the 2nd Marine Brigade, Commander together with the local government and other local agencies, conducted a groundbreaking ceremony to signal the start of the construction of the Baabag-Sahasa Island sovereignty marker.

On August 22, 2022, Marine

troops started the construction of the Sovereignty Marker. The construction was made possible through the support from Hon. Abduhasan I. Sali, the Municipal Mayor of Languyan, Tawi-Tawi, and the collective support of the people of Baabag-Sahasa Island.

It is indeed without any doubt that the emplacement and setting up of the Sovereignty Marker will be engraved and become a pivotal inclusion in the history of Tawi-Tawi and its people as its establishment is deemed to represent the land ownership of the Filipinos. Not only that, but it would pave the way for us to protect our right to our territory.

Furthermore, it is in our hands to unhesitatingly protect and gatekeep the sovereignty of our motherland away from other external forces that have been trying to invade the feeble portals of our borders. We have to take steps and actions as early and as soon as now. Because if not us, then who? If not now, then when?



1LT DINDO M MANIAGO PN(M)

Acting Commanding Officer, 31st Marine Company, Marine Battalion Landing Team-1



Naval Task Group Tawi-Tawi bags Best Naval Task Group of the Year

BY: CPT DENNIS D SADLAY PN(M)

The Naval Task Group Tawi-Tawi, under the leadership of BGen. Romeo T. Racadio PN(M), thanks all of the stakeholders from the local and national governments, civil society organizations, and Tawi-Tawians for the recognition bestowed to the unit by the Naval Forces Western Mindanao during its 26th Founding Anniversary in Zamboanga City. We heartfully devote this recognition to your continued support and cooperation. Through our collaborative efforts, we were able to successfully implement the following: military operations promoting peace and order, civil-military

operations promoting good governance, socio-economic development, cultural cohesiveness and harmony, good environmental management, and good public information.

As we sail forward, your Naval Task Group Tawi-Tawi remains committed to its ideals of being Trusted, Respected, and Responsive partner towards sustainable development, lasting peace, and security in Tawi-Tawi.



Marine Reservists contribute as Engineers, Builders, and Planners

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

As part of the effort to integrate and capacitate Marine Reservists, the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) sought the service of available reservists who could assist the Corps as Subject Matter Experts in their respective fields. The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, MC4, in coordination with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retirees Affairs, MC9, requested the availability of reservists from the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) (7MBde) (Res) with skills as engineers, builders, and planners for various projects.

Since 2020, several of these reservists have been performing and contributing their time and effort to the Corps. These include Lt. Col. Graciano A. Ruz PN(M)(MNSA)(Res), 1Lt. Melchor B. Arellano PN(M)(Res) and Sgt. Dianne Marie C. Malonzo PN(M)(Res), who are part of the Technical Working Group for the PMC Replication Plus Project engaging with the contractor, TCGI Engineers, consultants, and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority for the successful implementation of the Replication and Relocation Project of the new Headquarters PMC at Bataan Technopark Inc. (BTPI) in Morong, Bataan.

Lt. Col. Ruz is a licensed professional architect and master planner and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1, 7MBde (Res). 1Lt. Arellano is a licensed Civil Engineer assigned to the Headquarters 7MBde (Res) as Deputy for Operations, DG3, and Operations Officer, S3, of the 74th Marine Battalion (Res). Sgt. Malonzo is an Architectural

Finishing Specialist and Operations Staff at the 74th Marine Battalion (Reserve).

1Lt. Arellano and Sgt. Malonzo also assisted the TWG in the formulation of the Site Development Plan for the Combat Service and Support (CSS) Satellite School to be located at Colonel Ernesto Ravina Air Base (CERAB) in Capas, Tarlac. For this purpose, 1Lt. Arellano and Sgt. Malonzo were provided orders and have been acting in this capacity to support the Office of the MC4 since October 2020. Lt. Col. Ruz likewise supports the planning requirements of the Office of the MC4 including the development work allocating space at CERAB to enable the PMC to operate there.

Lt. Col. Ruz is also supporting the requirements of the Coastal Defense Regiment. He undertook a geologic and soil investigation and a topographic survey for the sites that will house the capabilities they intend to deploy.

At the Marine Base Gregorio Lim in Ternate, Cavite, Lt. Col. Ruz undertook a Master Development Plan for the various coves in the area. These plans will enable the Corps to pursue the development of the coves to support their requirements.

On July 6, 2022, Lt. Col. Ruz undertook and delivered the Site Development Plan to PMC for the 17-hectare PMC Cantonment area at CERAB. This is the PMC CSS Satellite Training Facility at CERAB.

2nd Marine Brigade Introduces Dragon Boat in Tawi-Tawi

By: 2nd Marine Brigade

The 2nd Marine Brigade (2MBde), under the leadership of BGEN ROMEO T RACADIO PN(M), introduced the 2MBde Dragon Boat Team during the celebration of the "Lepa Festival" as one of the highlights of the 49th Kamahardikaan Annual celebration in the province of Tawi-Tawi on September 24, 2022.

Composed of selected men of 2MBde, the team captivated the audience in their first public appearance. The introduction of the Dragon Boat was purposely done to open opportunities in the field of sports for Tawi-Tawi being an island province whose culture is tied up to life at sea. The introduction of the said sport received appreciation from the locals. As a result, the Provincial Government, under the leadership of Hon. Governor Yshmael I Sali, Al-haj, gave his commitment for the construction of ten Dragon Boats to support the development of the sports in the province.

The said activity is part of the unit's civil-military operations promoting cultural cohesiveness and harmony.





Conference and meetings with TCGI regarding the proposed construction packages based on the final list of priority facilities for BTP Morong



Joint site inspection of BCDA, DPWH, and PMC at Morong, Bataan regarding the utilization of existing roads and bridges



Site Inspection for the new HPMC facility at the Bataan Technopark Inc. (BTPI) at Morong, Bataan



Presentation for the Proposed Combat Service and Support (CSS) Satellite School to be located at Colonel Ernesto Ravina Air Base (CERAB) at Capas, Tarlac

On August 17, 2022, the Headquarters Philippine Air Force (HPAF) concurred with the colocation of the PMC CSS facility and the submitted metes and bounds of the 17-hectare facility. The new HPMC facility, which will house the units and offices of the Corps with modern facilities, will rise at the Bataan Technopark and will replace the existing HPMC facility at the Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

The work of 1Lt. Arellano consisted of the review and corrections of the 1st batch (51) of floor plans and advice on the Conceptual Design of PMC Facilities. 1Lt. Arellano and Sgt. Malonzo likewise provided inter-agency coordination for the PMC with Philippine government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), BCDA, and TCGI. Technical inputs included comments and corrections on floor plans and perspective design of CPMC Office, Head of Office and Sgt. Major, Chief of Staff, PMC Office, and the layout of the Deputy Commandant, PMC office.

Both 1Lt. Arellano and Sgt. Malonzo participated in the joint site inspection of DPWH, BCDA, and PMC in Morong, Bataan regarding the utilization of existing roads and bridges for the transfer of PMC ground assets. Thereafter, they conducted a review and correction of the perspectives of different facilities.

Late last year, 1Lt. Arellano and Sgt. Malonzo participated in technical and coordination meetings with BCDA, TCGI, and PMC regarding perspectives of facilities and corrections of the tactical location of the facilities in the site development plan. In November 2020, they reviewed the BTPI Site Development Plan Scheme 4D and 18-floor plans.

They also conducted a review of the monitoring list of structures with status and corrections for the presentation to BCDA. This included assistance to the TWG in handling the building phasing plan, floor plans & perspectives, and the construction phasing based on the initial budget allocated. This was followed by meetings with TCGI regarding the proposed construction packages based on the final list of priority facilities for BTP Morong. Since then, Sgt. Malonzo was commissioned to officer as First Lieutenant.

The use of the skilled reservists from the 7MBde (Res) gave the Corps the opportunity to optimize the integration and capacitation of its reserve component with their expertise and background that are normally not readily available in the regular force. It shows how the appropriate match of skilled reservists with the requirements helps the service to meet its objectives by maximizing the use of a Total Force of regular and reservist Marines.



A Journey in the Reserve Force

By: Sgt. Rowena S. Labugin PN(M)(Res)

Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do. - Goethe

Training can be defined in many ways depending on which organization we belong to. For some, it is more about knowledge, research, and programs that enhance our analytical skills in answering questions requiring comprehensive answers. For others, it can be more physical, where our strength, stamina, and discipline are developed and tested.

It was July 2022 when I decided to join the reserve force since it has been my greatest dream to be part of the uniformed personnel, not just because of the influence of my sibling but also of my uncles who served our country during their time in the service.

Upon receiving our enlistment order, I felt delighted that finally, one of my greatest dreams is fulfilled. I promised myself that I will serve my country and fellowmen to the best that I can. I joined various activities such as Brigada Eskwela, tree planting, coastal clean-up, and feeding programs manifesting the mission of the organization. I met with high-ranking officials of the Armed Forces of Philippines and other military personnel and realized that civilian life is very much different. I joined online meetings, in-person gatherings, assemblies, and other trainings that enhanced my knowledge and understanding of the reserve force.

I was given a chance to join the Marine Reservist Orientation Training headed by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Marine Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs, MC9, led by the MROT

training director, Lt. Col. Venice M. Lucero PN(M). There was an online lecture and 7-day field training exercise (FTX) at the Naval Base Camp Osias (NNBCO) in San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

The feeling of hesitation was there because of scheduling conflict with my school. I sought the advice of my school head who encouraged me to join the training. With her approval, I grabbed the opportunity and immediately applied for a leave.

On July 25, 2020, we reported at NBCO and I got my first "mase-mase" on the spot as a welcome ritual. The first day of training was a brief orientation on what we were expected to do for the 7 days of FTX. The training was full of tiring activities especially because we were handled by the MC9. The trainers were really strict and snappy and would always want our execution to be almost perfect.

The amphibious operation, raid/ambush, patrolling, immediate action drill, navigation, and firing were some of the activities we conducted. I can say that we really enjoyed those activities despite the difficulties we endured. It was during the training when I also realized the importance of camaraderie and the oneness of the team. My teammates never left my side especially during the amphibious operation since I do not know how to swim and during the so-called echo-echo (Escape and Evasion). I saw how our team worked hand in hand in order for us to accomplish the task.



The training was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience because of the learnings imparted to us by our trainers, the laughter, sleepless and tiring nights, and the punishment that molded us to be stronger and more disciplined. I also treasure the friendship that was built and that strong feeling and determination to willingly serve our country and its people to the best that we can.

I hope that more training involving the reserve force could be conducted. This will improve our knowledge and skills and enable us reservists to perform our responsibilities effectively. As the quotation above says, knowing without applying is nothing, willingness without action will never come into realization. The prize of victory is sweeter if it is done wholeheartedly, passionately, and dedicatedly.



How I used to Despise The Marines

By: Mrs. Hadzra T. Matba

Harsh. Just too harsh. Rude. Arrogant. So full of themselves.

These are just some qualities I really hate from people. And these are what I have seen from these men in uniform who we call Marines. The personality is just too strong that just with their presence around, I felt intimidated and sometimes harassed. With no explanations, I did not know why I did. Maybe because of fear or because of the many things I still did not understand.

And all these...are not too long ago.

God knows how I despise them. How I used to.

Until recently.

I got to know them. I had the opportunity to know the Marines in an up-close level through a shared objective – community service.

Not known to many, I am a person who loves to serve the communities in our province. Surprisingly, at least to me, the Marines also have this in their arsenal that I have never thought of – the passion to connect with the locals in the communities by conducting community outreach programs, and here began my positive perspective towards our Marines.

In recent years, I have been doing series of community service, programs that benefit my fellow Tawi-Tawians

especially those who are in the far-flung areas. "Bisyo ang magserbisyo," as we in the family would always say. Politically or not, service is like the fuel that keeps us going.

Inevitably, through channels and linkages, I met the people who I once hated so much and became one of their partners and a strong supporter of their programs. We have conducted various missions together that up to now, when I look back, I couldn't comprehend how was I able to judge these gentlemen in uniform without getting to know who and what they really are.

The Marine Battalion Landing Teams in Tawi-Tawi through the years have made significant contributions to the lives of many Tawi-Tawians and the province as a whole, not just by providing maximum security and maintaining the peace that we always have, but also by becoming a part of the Tawi-Tawi family. Yes. Family. Because family would always think of the well-being of the other family members and I honestly believe from what I have witnessed being with them in countless programs and events that our Marines indeed love us.

In just a short period of time, from being a critic and a hater, I have become a staunch supporter of our Marines.

I hope to continue to be working with them as long as I can and as long as I am allowed to.



Borrowed Time

BY: MAJ JERBER ANTHONY J BELONIO PN(M)

It was the happiest moment of my life. That is how it felt when we celebrated my son's first birthday. Everything was complete. Seeing the happy faces of my wife and son gave me a high sense of elation. I have everything that I ever needed – a loving wife and an adorable son. But then a hint of the past reminded me that I am living on borrowed time.

Albarka, Basilan. It was a cold December morning in 2008 when our company reached the hilltop of Hill 297. There was no enemy in sight. I heaved a sigh of relief. It was not a good time to be shooting somebody. After all, it was the yuletide season. We radioed in to our battalion command post that we have reached our objective and waited for further instruction. They told us to stay put and observe. With the looks of things, we might be going home early. But fate would not have it that way.

As the sun steadied its position above us, gunshots were heard. We immediately scampered for cover. After a few moments, we realized that no one was shooting at us. The firefight that ensued was at the other hilltop adjacent to our position. Another company from our battalion encountered the insurgents. There was a heavy exchange of firepower that lasted for more than three hours. The radio traffic was a jam. We can hear drastic call for reinforcement and fire support. We even heard somebody calling to fire at their position. It was a desperate call. Requesting to fire the cannons and even drop bombs at your position only mean one thing. The enemy is almost on top of them. I can hear through the radio chatter that their defenses have been breached and that the insurgents are inching closer.

I asked our company commander if we will reinforce the beleaguered company. I waited for what seemed like an eternity. After a few grueling minutes, the order came. We immediately went down from our position and crossed the river. We then boarded the naval vessel that will take us to the other side of the island – the foot of the infamous Hill 330.

Hill 330 has made its mark in our military's history because no unit of the Armed Forces has ever captured it ever since the Muslim secessionists made it as one of their base camps in Basilan.

As we were approaching the encounter site at 3:48 PM, one of my squad leaders called for a halt. We intently scanned the area for any signs of the enemy. Nothing. Then I heard something. I could not describe it at first but the sound was familiar. It was like the sound of a bell. My company commander then radioed me to move on. Then it hit me. It was a warning device. We were stepping into an ambush. I tried to order my men to fall back but it was too late. Hail of bullets greeted us as we found ourselves hitting the ground.

Three days with minimal water can surely cause dehydration that weakens the body. That was how my body felt when I tried to dive for cover. My knees betrayed me and instead of diving behind a tree for cover, I found myself hugging the dirt beneath me. I was totally exposed without any cover aside from my helmet. I tucked my head in and tried to crawl my way to the nearest cover. I could hear the whizzing of bullets as they flew past me whispering deathly sounds. Then the moment that I feared the most came. A projectile from a grenade launcher explodes a few feet in front of me. Then another. And another. Each explosion was closer than the last. It was just a matter of time.

One of my men tried to extricate me from my ordeal but he could not come to me without being exposed to enemy fire so I ordered him to stay in his position and cover me with suppressive fire. After crawling a few more agonizing meters, I finally found cover. Just as I reached my cover, a rifle propelled grenade exploded from where I was. It was a just a few feet away and the explosion was deafening. I was reeling as the ground shook. It took me a while before I recovered. I felt some of the shrapnel has inched their way inside my right boot while some were stuck in my vest. No visible wounds. I quickly checked myself and was relieved to find that I was still in one piece. That was close. I couldn't believe I survived that. But there was no time for thoughts. We were still pinned down and my men were waiting for my orders. So, I mustered up my remaining strength to maneuver my troops and take the high ground. We were able to mobilize and we took the high ground that gave us the advantage. After realizing that we have gained the upper hand, the enemy retreated.

Our battalion was the first unit to step foot on the hilltop of Hill 330. But that feat cost us the ultimate price. Five Marines sacrificed their lives while 30 were wounded. And it could have been worse. That battle was a David and Goliath epic. The enemy outnumbered us 10 to one. On how we survived, we still considered ourselves lucky. On how I escaped death on that fateful day, I still consider it a miracle.

Yet not everybody had the same story. Five gallant Marines sacrificed their lives in the altar of freedom on that fateful day. As I stood at the foot of the hill looking back at the carnage that transpired, I realized that too much has happened to me that year. I just reported in the first week of February and had my baptism of fire a couple of weeks after. I had a couple more before summer ended. Then I was wounded during the waning days of May. A mortar exploded a few meters from where I stood; 14 shrapnel scattered all over my body – three on the chest, three on my right arm, and the rest on my legs. One came close to rupturing my heart. The doctor said I was lucky. Another inch and it could have been a different story. Maybe I was lucky. But it didn't feel that way – especially during that time. The doctors said

it would take six months for me to recover but I requested to leave after six weeks. I hate hospitals.

A few months after I reported back to the battalion, the events of Hill 330 unfolded. That day changed me. It changed how I look at things and how I look at life. It made me angry, bitter. Those Marines did not deserve to die. My friends did not deserve to die. They said it's the job. Yes, that's true. I was able to accept that though the years, but the nightmares still haunt me at times. I guess this is something I have to live with for the rest of my life. As a Marine, you'll have to learn to take the good with the bad. I always thought

that the horror of that day would never be erased from my memory. I was right. That day will forever be etched in my memory.

But as time went by, new memories were created. I met a beautiful and loving wife and on the very same day and time at 3:48 December 7, 2012, our son was born. I couldn't have been more thankful for that wonderful gift. More than a decade and two more sons after, I have slowly accepted and made peace with what transpired during that fateful day. And I am very much thankful for my borrowed time here on earth.

New milestone for Marine Aviators:

First Female Marine BNI First Pilot



BY: LTJG EDA GLIS MARAPAO PN



Do people make history? Or does history make people? Scholars debate about this but what is common between the two is the defining moment a crucial decision is made. Somebody from Naval Air Wing hence decided and made history on the 31st of May 2022.

She, a woman of strong and determined character, is the first female to break barriers and prove that nothing is unachievable. She is the first female from the Philippine Marine Corps who has proven her worth to be awarded the Naval Aviation Gold Wing Badge qualifying her to be a First Pilot of the most reliable Britten Norman Islander (BNI). She is a marine naval aviator who is a symbol of tenacity, perseverance, and dedication. She is Cpt. Sandy Joyce M. Navarro PN(M).

Finishing the Naval Officer Course Candidate Course Class 17 (NOCC-17) and the Naval Aviation Officer Course Class 09 (NAOC-09) with bright colors, Cpt. Navarro PN(M) demonstrated how being different is better. Being the only female marine officer in her basic pilot training, she stood



firm and upheld her position in the Philippine Fleet. During her training, she showed that nothing beats hard work and determination. She was the type of student that you see giving more than what was asked. She was not intimidated when her uniform was different from her colleagues, nor when her name was listed separately from the majority. She put her focus into what mattered, rather than drain herself trying to blend in.

It was not a surprise when she was released by her Instructor Pilot, Cdr. Raphael Bryan M. Sy PN(GSC), on that fateful day. She was rated satisfactorily by Cdr. Zyril S. Villacorta PN after demonstrating how BNI with tail number NV314 is supposed to be handled by a true aviator. It might have taken her years, but just like diamonds, quality takes time.

The gold wings she now wears on her uniform is a clear manifestation that success is only an extra determination away. Cpt. Navarro, a living proof that everything can be achieved with perseverance, now shines bright and has cemented her part in history.



7TH MARINE BRIGADE

The Epitome of a Marine Reservist

It is often said that leaders are made not born. This is quite true since nobody can discern one's future from the moment he or she was born. Great leaders become one the moment they rise up to the occasion and carry out the role beyond what was expected of them. Having people to command does not automatically equate to being a leader. One can be a commander but they will never be a leader in the eyes of the people under them. So, it's quite an honor to meet and be acquainted with someone who possessed the qualities of a great leader.

Brigadier General Rodylyn Tingzon Manzano Philippine Navy (Marines) (Reserve) started her service in the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) in September 2000 after she earned her Master's Degree in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines. She used this to volunteer as a reservist to the Philippine Navy then the Marines with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She was then assigned as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations (G7) of the then 4th Marine Brigade (Reserve). On October 13, 2011, she was promoted to Colonel and was confirmed by the Commission on Appointments on December 19, 2012. On August 8, 2017, she was designated as Commander, 7th Marine Brigade Reserve (7MBde) (Res). On January 28, 2018, she was promoted to Brigadier General and confirmed by

the Commission on Appointments on August 15, 2018.

She served as Brigade Commander of the 7MBde (Res), which has the entire Luzon as its area of responsibility from August 8, 2017 to November 12, 2019. With this designation, she made history in the PMC as the first female Brigade Commander and as the first female Brigadier General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve (AFP) (Res). Through her significant efforts and contribution, the 7MBde (Res) was adjudged as the AFP Ready Reserve Unit (Brigade/Wing Level) for three consecutive years – 2015, 2014 and 2013 and in 2002 as then 4th Marine Brigade (Brigade/Wing Level), Philippine Navy Ready Reserve Unit of the Year 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014; as Marine Brigade Reserve Unit of the Year 2017 and 2016; and Naval Reserve Command Reserve Unit of the year for five straight years – 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012 (Brigade/Force Level).

She was adjudged as the Naval Reserve Command Reservist of the Year (Field Grade Level) in 2013 and 2014 and Philippine Navy Reservist of the Year (Field Grade Level) in 2014. At present, she is the Chairperson of the Philippine Navy Naval Reserve Command Multi-Sectoral Linkaging Committee against COVID-19 created in April 2020 to harness the support

of the PN Reservists in the Navy's battle against this pandemic. To date, this Committee has received hundred million pesos worth of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints as well as Happy Meal Toys and food donation from fast food giants, McDonalds and Jollibee, which were shared with all Navy units, all Marine Brigades and Battalions, fellow frontliners from all branches of service including PNP and Coast Guard as well as health frontliners and communities in local governments all over the country.

During her tenure as the commander of 7MBde (Res) and up until now in her capacity as the Chairperson of the Philippine Navy Naval Reserve Command Multi-Sectoral Linkaging Committee, BGen. Manzano displayed remarkable traits that made her the epitome of a leader of the reserve force. She fully understood her role as a reservist and in turn, encourage those under her command to do the same. Our military's reserve forces are the force multipliers and shall be called upon in times of national emergencies such as war or calamities. However, those are not the only instances that our reservists can assist the regular force. BGen. Manzano took the initiative to offer the services of her reservists even before being called upon during her time as the Brigade Commander



of 7MBde (Res). She fully understood that as reservists, their role as force multipliers are not limited to supporting our troops during war or other national emergencies. The AFP is also at the forefront as the people's partners in nation-building and as such, there is a need to reach out to our stakeholders and carry out various Civil Military Operations (CMO). She saw this as an opportunity for the reservists to get more involved in the operations of the Marines. With wide array of friends from non-government organizations, civil society and private organizations, she was able to promote collaborations that resulted in successful CMO projects.

Currently, she still makes a difference as our stakeholders continue to collaborate with our Marines through her efforts. To date, countless of CMO activities have been successfully conducted in partnership with: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Jollibee Group Foundation, Alagang Kapatid Foundation, Incorporated, Makati Medical Center Foundation, Incorporated, Air Asia Philippines, St. James Copa Foundation, Ayala Alabang, JT International Philippines, and JCI San Juan Dambana. Through the efforts and donations of these groups and the hard work of BGen. Manzano, they were able to give the much-needed support for our



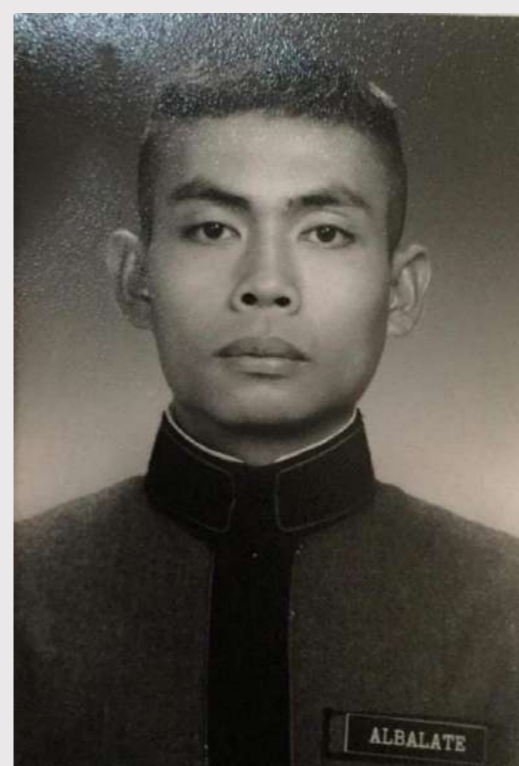
Marines in the frontlines in the form of food, water, medicine and PPEs. Their endeavors also brought smiles to children in the Marines' areas of responsibilities as meals and toys were handed out to them. The battle against an invisible enemy during the height of the pandemic was arduous but our Marines held out with a firm resolve to see it through. Knowing that there are people who are supporting them was a great morale booster and contributed to our success and survival against COVID-19.

The journey of BGen. Manzano in the military service was a meaningful one. But for her, it is just about giving back to the country. While it is her

knowledge and skills that brought her honor and took her to the pinnacle of success that culminated with a star landing on her shoulders, it is her indomitable spirit and compassion that make her a great leader. Indeed, she is a leader worth emulating and the Marine Reserve Force needs more like her.



MAJ JERBER ANTHONY J BELONIO PN(M)



The road less travelled: An ode to one remarkable Marine

BY: MAJ JERBER ANTHONY J BELONIO PN(M)



Robert Frost's poem aptly describes the decision one makes the moment he chose to enter the military. It is mostly used as a comparison towards making the ultimate choice to follow the path that most went through – a path that enticed many with the promise of glory and riches or the path wherein only few ever dared and the only promise is that of fulfillment in service to God, country, and people. Every teenager is faced with a dilemma moments before they graduate from high school. They have to decide carefully what to do next for it will define the kind of life they will have.

The journey of Col. Adolfo B. Albalate PN(M)(GSC) in the military did not begin immediately after high school. Whereas some heed the call to service while contemplating to go to college, his came a couple of years later as he initially decided to pursue Electrical Engineering at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. The desire to join the military, however, was so strong that he decided to enter the Philippine Military Academy on April 1, 1988. Like every graduate who passed through the halls of Fort del Pilar, that was the moment that defined his life for the last 34 years.

Col. Albalate started his career in the Marines when he reported to the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8 in March 1993. Almost two decades later, he came to lead the same unit as its Battalion Commander. He then went on to become the Chief of Staff of 2nd Marine Brigade and the Naval Installation Command. He then became the deputy of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Commissary and Exchange Service and the Chief of Manpower Development and Administration

Division at the General Headquarters. He went on to become the Deputy Commander for Marine Operations in Naval Forces Western Mindanao. Wherever he went and whatever responsibility he was given, he made sure that he gave his very best. He may have reached the culmination of his military career but he will forever be remembered as one of the finest examples of an officer, a family man, and a Marine.

For him, being an officer means being a leader. A leader who is responsible and accountable not only for the unit's missions but also the attitude of the Marines in the unit. As an officer, Col. Albalate is strict but fair. He always emphasizes discipline not only among the troops but most especially among the officers who are responsible for the Marines under their command. Being a structured organization with rich culture and traditions, seniority is always held in high regards. As such, the juniors will always look up to the seniors and will try to emulate them. So, discipline must always start from the top. This has been one of the best lessons that he imparted to other Marines.

As a family man, Col. Albalate understood that he cannot always be there for them. Such is the life of a Marine. One is always away on deployments and most of the time, no one can say for certain the next time he is able to go home. Sometimes, deployments go on for long periods of time and there are also times when ongoing operations will hinder one from doing so. Of course, there is always the danger that comes with being a Marine. With all this, his advice was to always make the most out of

the situation. He said that it would also help if you make them understand the kind of job you have and what it means to be in the service. He also emphasized that the ultimate key to everything was communication. When he was deployed in far flung areas, he always finds the time to call his wife and daughters. Though there may be times when he was unable to come home when needed, he certainly made effort to be there for his family despite the demands of the job.

As a Marine, he holds himself to the highest standards of the Corps. In every decision that he makes, one can see his integrity in full display. He is not one to make compromises. His guiding principle always leans towards what is just and right. He also leads his Marines by example. He does not ask something that he himself cannot do. His attitude towards the service was the key to his success. He exemplifies himself as one of the representatives of the best in soldiery. As a senior, he always finds time to mentor not only the junior officers but also enlisted personnel in his unit and even those who just come to him for advice. He eagerly shares his knowledge and even gives a moment of his time to help in making the Marine Corps better. He always held the interest of the Corps above his own and served as a Marine who lived in accordance with Honor, Duty, and Valor.

Indeed, upon the retirement of Col. Albalate, the Corps bids adieu to one remarkable Marine. May the life lessons he left behind be a guiding force to all Marines who continue to carry on. Hurrah!

PHILIPPINE MARINE DRUM AND BUGLE TEAM

*60th Foundation
Anniversary
Diamond Jubilee*
1962-2022

BY: 2LT JUSTUS L. SORIANO PN(M)(RET)



The only musical group of its kind in the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to have traveled and performed in the four corners of the archipelago: from Batanes in the North to Simunul Island in the south; Bataraza in the West to Catbalogan in the East. Accumulating 60 years of musical service for the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), the AFP and the Nation in general, the Philippine Marine Drum and Bugle Team (MDBT) continues to exist to date.



Cdr. Lim acquired the vision of organizing the Marines' own DBC when, as a Lieutenant (Junior Grade), had a chance to watch either the US Marine Drum and Bugle Corps in Washington, D.C. or the newly formed Fleet-Marine



AVELINO L. MEJICO
Musician Chief 103921 PN

Force Pacific Drum and Bugle Team stationed in San Diego, California in 1952 while taking the Amphibious Warfare Course in Quantico, Virginia, USA.

Knowing that the personnel picked to form the MDBT were former brass band members, Cdr. Lim tapped the service of Musician Chief Avelino

Mejico PN from the Naval Training Center to train the group. The team were then equipped with single-valve bugle instruments (the common type among the drum and bugle corps those days) and field drums. The expertise of Musician Chief Mejico in arranging musical scores for the MDBT particularly in transposing notes for bugle instruments paved the way for the team to perform and play in exceptional form.

That, in March 18, 1962, the MDBT's musical proficiency was tested in two different occasions in Sta. Ines, Bulakan, Bulacan and Candaba, Pampanga. This event was officially recorded in the Headquarters Support Company (HSC), Marine Battalion, Philippine Navy morning report dated March 18, 1962 found at the Non-Current Record Branch (NCRB), Office of the Adjutant General, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The date March 18, 1962 became the basis for the MDBT as a unit to celebrate their Golden Anniversary on March 19, 2012 with MGen. Rustico O. Guerrero AFP, Commandant, PMC as Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker.

Though organized initially with 15 members only led by then SSg. Pio Custodio PM, the team possessed the capability of playing different musical pieces ranging from common

martial music to classic and modern. In addition, their instrumentation and field demonstration style made them unique and famous within the local band communities.

The first decade saw the MDBT performing during graduation of Marine Recruits, Ceremonial Honors at Headquarters Philippine Navy at Roxas Boulevard, Formal Guard mounting at Rizal Park, Reenactment of Dr. Jose Rizal's Walk to Martyrdom, town fiesta celebrations, school/college/university programs, religious activities, etc.

From their first musical exposure in Bulacan and Pampanga, the team has become relentless in proving their worth as an effective link between the military and civilian populace, and there has been no stopping.

In 1969, the MDBT was able to compose a five-man team combo from their existing personnel. The strength of the MDBT increases during the entry of the 70s. Assigned under the Weapons Company, Philippine Marine Battalion, the personnel have shown their unique character as a musician and rifleman at the same time.

The Philippine Marine Brigade was activated in February 1972 with Capt. Rudiardo Brown PN as the Commandant. The first six months of 1972 made the MDBT Busy as a Bee, performing in different places from north to south. In August 1972, the Combat Support Group (CSG) was activated. All personnel from the Weapons Company were assigned to the CSG including the members of

the MDBT. At this point, the Team was led by SSg. Recto. In the third quarter of 1972, the musical engagements of the Team out-of-camp was slowly dwindling.

Their musical services ceased when Martial Law was declared on September 21, 1972. The MDBT was temporarily deactivated in order to support the challenging tasks of the different Marine operating units conducting security and peace and order operations in different parts of Manila, suburbs, and nearby provinces. Some of the members were assigned to the rifle companies while others were put on detached service with Department of National Defense.

When the need so requires, the Philippine Marines has no band of its own to provide ceremonial music particularly to the deceased Marines and relied much on the services of the PN Band based at the nearby Naval Station. In the third quarter of 1973, Capt. Rodolfo M. Punsalang PN(GSC), while at the helm of the Philippine Marine Brigade, reactivated the MDBT after ten months of absence. The personnel were immediately recalled to organize the Team and on August 28, 1973, the Headquarters was able to provide a bugler during the interment of the Late Cpl. Vicente Dones PM in Zamboanga City. From that date onward, the Philippine MDBT continues to exist. The next thirty years saw the continuous rise to fame of the MDBT here and abroad while rendering more achievements and praises for the PMC. The unit became the Civil-Military Operations instrument of peace and harmony fighting in a different approach





by winning the hearts and minds of the local populace and foreigners as well.

On November 7, 1984, the MDBT was formally activated as a separate company under the Headquarters Battalion designated as Drums, Bugles, and Music Detachment. 2Lt. Carlos G. Villanueva PN(M) became the first Commanding Officer in permanent capacity because of his wide musical knowledge and experiences. He was one of the original members and became the Drum Major in 1973 when the MDBT was reactivated. He rose from the ranks and was called to Active Duty after acquiring a Baccalaureate Degree. The unit designation was later changed to Drum and Bugle Company manifesting that the personnel of the MDBT composes the bulk of the unit and the Marine Combo as one of its musical sections (The Marine Corps Acoustic Guitar Ensemble is also merged nowadays).

For fifty years (1962-2012), the MDBT enjoyed the privilege of being in one subordinate unit with the Commandant, Philippine Marines. This relation existed with respect to the fact that the desirous intent of the Commanding Officer, Philippine Marine Battalion made the organization of a unique musical group a reality. Thus, the MDBT is always under the Headquarters.

However, their general mission to provide musical service in support of the morale and ceremonial activities of the Corps is mostly construed

differently. In 2013, following the principles and policies of the higher headquarters regarding the different musical unit, the MDBT was relieved from the Headquarters Battalion and was assigned to the Marine Security and Escort Group. For nine years, the versatility of the members of the MDBT was proven as they perform as musicians and members of the Honor Guards alternately and execute other security-related details.

Few weeks before retiring from military service, the Commandant, PMC, MGen. Ariel R. Caculitan PN(M), activated the Headquarters & Headquarters Service Group in February 2022 paving the way for the reassignment of the MDBT back to its original home base. This move coincides with the preparation being made by the active and former members of the MDBT for the 60th Foundation Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) celebration of the unit that was supposed to be held in March 18, 2022.

On April 28, 2022, the Philippine Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Team celebrated its 60th Foundation Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) at the Acero Hall with the Commandant, PMC, MGen. Nestor C. Herico PN(M), as the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker represented by Col. Gregorio Hernandez Jr. PN(M) (GSC), the Superintendent of Marine Corps Force Development Center. The Jubilee Theme is "Relevance in Changing Times."

Today, despite the challenges brought by the pandemic and the dwindling number of musicians brought by normal attrition, the Philippine Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Team (Marine Band Company as a whole) is professionally committed to serve the Corps, the AFP, and the Nation as a whole with high level of musical proficiency towards the 75th Diamond Jubilee celebration of the PMC and onwards.



Then Commandant, PMC, MGen. Nestor C. Herico PN(M), having a posterity picture with some members of the Marine Drum and Bugle Team on June 1, 2022.



MGen. Rustico O. Guerrero AFP, the then Commandant, PMC with MDBT during the send-off ceremony for the participation in the Wonju International Military Tattoo at Republic of Korea on September 5, 2010.



I am the Resurrection and Life whoever believes in me even if he dies will live

BY: MAJ TYRONE S NARISMA CHS

Death is a painful reality of human phenomenon; we can't help but to accept this reality. According to Aristotle "dead are more blessed and happier than the living, and to die is to return to ones real home." Truly Aristotle is fairly right in connection to our catholic teaching that state, Death is the end of mans earthly pilgrimage of the time of grace and mercy which God offers him, so as to work out his earthly life in keeping with the divine plan and to decide his ultimate destiny. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1013) I have been in the ministry in the Chaplain Service for eight years and I have personally experienced the sorrowful reality of the certainty of death, I have witnessed how the bereaved family experienced the pain of death, unavoidable reality of sorrow. However, In spite of this vague and painful experience of death it also gives us hope that death is our door to eternal life.

Christ assures us that even if we die we will live with him in the life eternal. Christ said, I am going to God the father to prepare a dwelling place for you, and after I have gone and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you with me, so that where I am you also maybe. (John 14:2-3) Therefore death is our door to Heaven. Christ alone in the human history who experienced crucifixion on the Cross and died, he was buried and after three days he

was risen. Hence, after forty days of his resurrection his resurrected body ascended to heaven. The first reason why he ascended to heaven is because he has to go back to where he came from. He is from God the father and he belongs to God. Secondly, he ascend to heaven in order for him to open the gates of heaven so that all of us may have access to heaven. Therefore death is not a sign of end but an indication of hope. "I will ransom them from the power of grave; I will redeem them from death, where, O death, where are your Plagues? Where, O grave is your destruction." (Hosea 13:19)

Without death there will be no idea of heaven, or life after death. For this reason when we give honor to our departed Marines, we are in deep faith that our Lord Jesus in his own three days in the tomb, he hallowed the graves of all who believe in him and made the grave the sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims or mortal bodies. We pray that our beloved departed Marines may sleep in peace until Christ awaken them to glory for he is the resurrection and life, then they will see Christ face to face and in Christ light our departed Marines will see light and know the splendour of God.



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Wet Park Adventure: A tribute to our Heroes' Inspirations

In our society today, the heroism and sacrifices of our soldiers are now being appreciated and given recognition. And rightly so, since these men and women have dedicated their lives in order to keep our country safe and secured. Day in and day out, they risk their lives and limbs in order to fight the evil that threatens the very fabric of our freedom. Many of them have lost their lives and many more have lost their limbs. Then there are also those who have lost a part of themselves in trying to grasp the meaning of the horrors that they have witnessed through the course of their military service.

While it is true that their job is very difficult, I can also say that being married to a Marine is also not that easy. One has to deal with the loneliness of long deployments and the hardship of having to raise your children on your own most of the time. On top of that, there is also the reality of the dangers of their chosen profession. The only solace you get is if your spouse is lucky enough to be deployed in a place where there is a phone signal or internet so that you can sneak in a bit of conversation before they go about their day.

Such is the rigors of a Marine wife. But as a wife, I can endure these rigors. It is harder to explain to a toddler why his dad is away for so long or when he will come home. Toddlers ask a lot of questions and that was the time that my husband and I spent more time apart. There are also times when I wished that he was here to explain some things to our boys knowing that

only a father can explain certain things clearly to his sons. All I tell them is that we would make the most out of our time together the moment he comes home.

I believe that most of the Marine families can relate to this story. I know that all awaits the call from their beloved Marine declaring that he is coming home. And for others, they are waiting for that surprise when he is standing on the doorstep for the much-needed vacation.

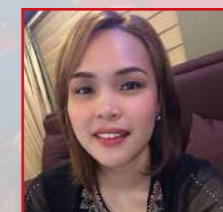
However, surprises come in all forms and while it was not the one that everybody is waiting for, certainly it was the next best thing. Speaking of surprises, it was how I felt when BGen. Rodylyn Manzano PN(M) (Res) got us in contact with Ms. Marie Abigail Kalalo, the owner of Wetpark Adventure Lagoon. It is the first indoor water park located at the 3rd floor of Venice Grand Canal Mall, McKinley Hill, Taguig City. She made a proposal to invite the children of our Marines, especially those who were killed or wounded, to avail exclusively of their facility on Independence Day. June 12 coincidentally fell on a Sunday so it was a perfect time to spend with family especially those whose fathers and mothers were home that time. Most importantly, it is a wonderful experience for the children of the Marines.

What a wonderful experience, indeed. The kids were able to enjoy the attractions at their playground and of course, the kiddie pool. One can see the joy in the children's faces as they line up to enter the Aqua Park. On top

of that, there were also snacks provided for the kids and their guardians outside the water park after the activity. Sixty kids were accommodated for three hours or one regular session for that day.

As a mother, seeing the joy in the eyes of your children is priceless. We will forever be grateful to the management and staff of Wetpark Adventure Lagoon and to Ms. Abigail. It was truly an unforgettable experience. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to BGen. Manzano for facilitating the activity. We would also like to thank Lt. Col. Emmett Manantan PN(M)(Res), the Battalion Commander of 72 Marine Battalion Reserve and Sgt. Roy Reyes PN(M) for their valuable contributions that made this whole experience possible.

All in all, it was a fitting tribute to our Marine heroes as the whole adventure gave joy to who matters most – their family, especially their children. That day brought a different sense of pride knowing that there are people who would get out of their way to recognize the sacrifices of our Marines. For the children of our Marines, most of them may be young to understand but time will come when they will value the sacrifices of our Marines.



Mrs. Maria Irene Generale Belonio
PMCSAI Business Manager



Marine Wife:

A story of partnership and success

When I met the dashing 2nd lieutenant who swept me off my feet, I never thought that the life of a Marine wife could also be an adventure. I never imagined that making the decision to spend the rest of my life with him will also take me places – many of which only a few were able to step foot. Ever since that memorable day almost three decades ago, so much has happened not only with us but with our whole family. My husband is now approaching the pinnacle of his career and I can truly say that I have been with him every step of the way. From the moment we took our vows and were blessed with four children, we were a team. For the most part of his career, it was not downright easy as we have to deal with constant deployments, which take my husband away from me and the kids. But we made the most of the time that we get to spend with him. He also sees to it to make the most of his time with us whenever possible. Over time, I got accustomed to the situation and we are just glad that we made it work. As time passed, I eventually got involved with the Marines through the Philippine Marine Corps Officers Spouses Association, Incorporated (PMCOSAI). It is my way of showing support to my husband. Through the years that I've been a member of PMCOSAI, I worked with other Marine wives in doing outreach programs and humanitarian activities for the benefit mostly of the dependents of our Marines and even communities under the care of our different Marine units.

During my time in PMCOSAI, I also got to meet some of the wives of our enlisted personnel and interacted with them. They would help out with our activities and we do the same for them, but the most that I got involved with them frequently was when my husband was designated as the Brigade Commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade (3MBde) in the province of Palawan. During this time, I decided to be more active in supporting my husband since I know that he was given a big responsibility and that much is

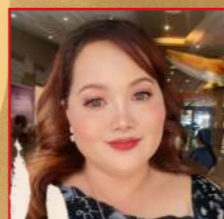
expected of him. Of course, this is also a way to spend more time with him. So, on February 28, 2021, together with the wives of our enlisted Marines in Palawan, we formed the Philippine Marines Enlisted Spouses Association (PMESA) (Palawan Chapter) with the goal of replicating the goals and programs of PMESA in Manila in support of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC). It took us few months after my husband took the helm of 3MBde to be able to lay the ground work for this endeavor. With the willing participation and eagerness of the wives of our enlisted Marines, we were able to push through. It was the first time that PMESA was organized in Palawan and everyone was excited. Our guiding principle in the conduct of our activities was always in support of the 3MBde and the PMC. All our projects were done in partnership with the officers, men, and women of 3MBde.

We launched our program with share-a-meal and hospital visitation on April 28, 2021 at the Navy dispensary and Camp General Artemio Ricarte Station Hospital (CGARSH), where we donated boxes of Domex liquid cleanser and personal protective equipment. We also handed out the same at the Ospital ng Palawan. The said items were our timely contribution to help our frontliners in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. On December 21, 2021, we conducted a gift giving activity at Apis Elementary School and Mailigan Elementary School at the municipality of Aborlan. School supplies and hygiene kits were distributed to the kids at these elementary schools with the intent of helping them get through this school year. On June 7, 2022, we conducted another gift-giving activity, but this time it was for the supporters and sympathizers of Communist Terrorists Group (CTGs) in Brgy. Langogan and Concepcion in Puerto Princesa. The beneficiaries received food packs, groceries, hygiene packs, rice packs, shoes, slippers and vitamins. The children were also given school supplies, shirts, shoes, toys and Project

Aral kits. On September 16, 2022, we launched the 3MBde Livelihood Project. A livelihood center was built to house five sewing machines for the wives of enlisted Marines which could be used to start a little income generating livelihood to supplement their finances.

All of the projects and activities were all done together with the personnel from 3MBde. I know it has been a busy 20 months or so but it was quite rewarding. The feeling of being able to help people in simple ways that uplifted their spirits is so overwhelming. Being adjudged as the best brigade for two consecutive years is also a big morale booster for the troops. All in all, I believe that the hard work, dedication and determination of the officers, men, and women of 3MBde and the undying support of PMESA have endeared us to the people of Palawan.

It has been said many times over that in every man's success, there's a woman behind. Well, in our case it is our partnership that led to success. My husband is a brilliant man with a kind heart who dedicates his life for the Corps in service to God, country, and people. I believe that there is more in store for him, that is why I have also made it my mission to support him in whatever way I can. His success is also mine and our children's. I understood the path he chose the moment I agreed to bound myself to him and I make sure that our children understood too. Truly, it is teamwork that makes the dream work. So, whatever his dreams and aspirations are, we work for it as a team. I will always be here to support him every single step along the way.



Mrs. Shermalane Larida
PMCOSAI Board of Trustee



Carrying on the heart of service

Another year is set to end. As we set to close another chapter of our lives, it always brings forth good feelings to look back at the wonderful things that happened. It is always mixed emotions as one looks back to the thing that they did together with friends especially if some of those friends that you came to love end up having to say goodbye.

So, as I look back to the wonderful moments that I spent with the members of the Philippine Marine Corps Officers Spouses Association, Incorporated (PMCOSAI), I cannot help myself but think of how fast time certainly passes by. I could still recall that in the middle of the year, we had to bid farewell to one of our revered members in the person of Mrs. Vivienne Candelario whose husband was also bowing out after more than three decades of dedicated service. It was on May 27 that we had our send-off ceremony for her in accordance with the traditions of our organization. We also conducted our 2nd board meeting prior to the ceremony.

On June 7, 2022, in keeping up with our thrust to help out

communities within the Marines' Area of Responsibility, we conducted an outreach program together with the officers, men, and women of the 3rd Marine Brigade. The activity was held at Barangay Concepcion, Puerto Princesa City. Before the month ended on June 28, we partnered up with the 3rd Marine Brigade in the conduct of "BRIGADA AGILA Shoot for a Cause." The proceeds of the activity were also donated to PMCOSAI in support of its future projects and programs.

July was a rather busy month for the ladies of PMCOSAI. On July 2, we conducted a community outreach program at Jade's Bajau Learning Center Inc., at Barangay Lamion 1, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi led by our adviser, Mrs. Laarni Herico. We were joined by the personnel of the 2nd Marine Brigade. We distributed hundreds of loot bags donated by Universal Robina Corporation and Ronald McDonald Foundation with the help of BGen. Rodylyn Manzano PN(M)(Res). The project is still in line with PMCOSAI's thrust to help communities near Marine bases and also in support of the Philippine Marine Corps' thrust of being the people's partner in nation-

building. In appreciation for this gesture from the ladies of PMCOSAI, the children from the learning center rendered songs and dance numbers.

The PMCOSAI ladies were then given traditional dresses, oriented on how to wear them, and were taught the "pangalay," the traditional dance in Tawi-Tawi. For such a wonderful experience, PMCOSAI will forever be grateful to the first lady of Tawi-Tawi province and the chairperson of Tawi-Tawi Provincial Women's Council (TPWC), Madame Hadja Jumda Sali, for her generous gifts and to the Provincial Tourism Officer of Tawi-Tawi, Hadji Pershing Taiyab, for showing us how to wear the native attire and for the ladies of TWPC for helping the PMCOSAI ladies in donning of the "sablay", and of course, Commissioner Elmasia Lipae who supported us all throughout our stay in Tawi-Tawi.

On July 10, we had fellowship with the MAMAS (Manila Association of Military Attaché Spouses) wherein different Attaches together with their spouses were treated to the famous Filipino brand of hospitality. The event also served as the send-off for Mrs.



Laarni Herico. They say that in one's life people come and go but only true friends remain. As Ma'am Laarni left, the ladies of PMCOSAI will forever be grateful for the friendship that she offered us and we will always cherish the memories that we shared. The month of July culminated with the retirement ceremony of our Commandant, MGen. Nestor Herico PN(M), on July 14, which also served as the last day of Ma'am Laarni as our adviser.

On September 18 and in partnership with Combat and Service Support Brigade (CSSB), we conducted a biking activity dubbed as "Fun Bike with Marines" held in Zamboanga City. The event was participated by numerous stakeholders in the region. The aim of the activity was to promote physical well-being, camaraderie, and fun among our Marines and countless of stakeholders who support our endeavors in that part of Mindanao. Another goal for the activity was to generate funds in support of the projects and activities of PMCOSAI. CSSB was able to generate Php 100,000.00, which was subsequently turned over to PMCOSAI.

It was truly a busy yet fun-filled year with a mix of gloom as some of our friends have to bid us adieu. But still, there are more activities to be conducted especially with the upcoming 72nd Marine Birthday. PMCOSAI will partner up with Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay for a bloodletting activity on October 28. There will also be a signing of memorandum of agreement giving the Marines and their dependents 30% of the blood that will be donated on that day. All Marines and their dependents will be able to access this blood through the 47 accredited partner hospitals of Dugong Alay, Dugtong Buhay throughout the country whenever there is a need. I encourage everyone to join us on October 28 and donate blood in order to save lives.

On November 11, PMCOSAI will be facilitating the Philippine Marine Corps Car and Motorcycle Show. This event is a fund-raising activity and the proceeds will go to the children at the cancer pediatric and pediatric ward of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center. I invite everyone to show your support and to all the car and motorcycle enthusiasts, this is your

chance to showcase your machines and be a part of saving a child's life.

Looking forward to the year end and early into the next year, the Association expects to usher in a new set of leaders that will steer it to new levels of being a steady partner of the Corps. We expect a smooth transition to the new set of Officers with the same passion of being a steady and reliable partner of the Corps carrying out its morale, welfare, and community relations objectives. As we look forward to this, I would like to personally extend our thanks to all our benefactors, sponsors, supporters, and friends who have contributed in one way or another to the success of the Association for the past years. Mabuhay and as always, PMCOSAI cares!



Dr. Sheryl S. Mangoroban
PMCOSAI President



PHILIPPINE MARINES CORPS

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE...

MARINE CANDIDATE SOLDIER

QUALIFICATIONS

- AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD AND NOT MORE THAN 24 YEARS OLD UPON ADMISSION
- MUST BE A NATURAL BORN FILIPINO CITIZEN AND OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER
- SINGLE, NEVER BEEN MARRIED
- COMPLETED THE K-12 OR AT LEAST 72 UNITS IN COLLEGE OR TESDA NCII FOR OLD CURRICULUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
- AT LEAST 5'0 (60 INCHES)
- MUST HAVE NO TATTOO

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

- PSA BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- K-12 DIPLOMA / TESDA DIPLOMA
- TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
- 2 X 2 PICTURE (WHITE BACKGROUND)

MARINE OFFICER CANDIDATE

QUALIFICATIONS

- AT LEAST 21 BUT NOT MORE THAN 26 YEARS & SIX (6) MONTHS OLD ON THE DATE OF ADMISSION
- MUST BE A NATURAL BORN FILIPINO CITIZEN AND OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER
- SINGLE, NEVER BEEN MARRIED
- GRADUATE OF 4-YEAR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
- AT LEAST 5'0 (60 INCHES)
- MUST HAVE NO TATTOO

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

- PSA BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- COLLEGE DIPLOMA
- TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
- 2 X 2 PICTURE (WHITE BACKGROUND)

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KARANGALAN KATUNGKULAN KABAYANIHAN

