



CITEMAR 6

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

"PMC@73: MOST READY, ALWAYS FORWARD IN THE
DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME NATION"



About The Cover



High levels of professionalism and readiness are hallmarks of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC). Marines receive extensive training in specialist subjects like amphibious assault, maritime interdiction, reconnaissance, and close-quarters fighting. To efficiently complete their objectives, they are outfitted with a variety of contemporary weapons, vehicles, and equipment.

The PMC 73rd Marine birthday theme, "PMC @73, Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of our Maritime Nation," reflects its commitment to ensuring the defense and security of the country's maritime territory and interests. As an elite force within the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Marines are trained to operate in diverse environments, including coastal areas, urban centers, jungle terrain, and mountainous regions while playing a crucial role in safeguarding the country's extensive coastline and archipelagic nature.

Anticipating an evolving and challenging security environment ahead, the Marines stand ready in conducting amphibious and expeditionary operations and providing force projection capabilities in support of national defense.



MARINE CORPS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps
Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Philippine Marine Corps
Philippine Marines
mcpaomarines@gmail.com
mandirigmangmarino2017@yahoo.com
0917-532-3593

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the Philippine Marine Corps or its members.



Editorial Board

MGEN ARTURO G ROJAS PN(M)

Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps

BGEN JIMMY D LARIDA PN(M)

Deputy Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps

COL BAYANI V CURAMING PN(M)(MNSA)

Chief of Marine Staff, Philippine Marine Corps

LTCOL NILO E JAPZON PN(M)(GSC)

AC of MS for Civil Military Operations, MC7

CPT JARALD B REA PN(M)

Director, Marine Corps Public Affairs Office

Editorial Staff

2LT JENNY-MAY C REY PN(M)

TSgt Joshua John G Reyes PN(M)

Sgt Albert B Castillo PN(M)

Sgt Arnel A Balnao PN(M)

Sgt David Q Balisi PN(M)

Cpl Jennifer L Fetisan PN(M)

Cpl Mary Joy M Hayahay PN(M)

Ms. Ria B. Reyes Civ HR

Photographer

PFC Joedenry J Abragan PN(M)

PFC Larry-I P Soriano PN(M)

Layout Artist

Sgt Christine C Espino PN(M)

Cpl Niño C Cordova PN(M)

PFC Avel T Robillos PN(M)

PFC Khris Ivan P Solmerano PN(M)

Creative Director/Proof Reader

Miss Jackie Jean Estanislao Asperas

CONTRIBUTORS

LTCOL NORMAN D REYES PN(M)

MAJ JERBER ANTHONY J BELONIO PN(M)

MAJ EMERY L TORRE PN(M)

CPT JOHN MARY C CAÑONASO PN(M)

CPT JAN MARC R ROJAS PN(M)

1LT JEROME A CABRERA PN(M)

1LT MARIA CRISTINA M MOJECA PN(M)

1LT DANIELLE JEAN D TORRES PN(M)

2LT ANNA PAMELA D BALO PN(M)

2LT PRINCESS JOY R MAMARADLO PN(M)

2LT KARL KILLI O TAULI PN(M)

2LT MARK JOEL L BUCAYU PN(M)

2LT KHIM LIMUELA A TAMACA PN(M)

2LT RONNIELLY SONJA D SEÑORA PN(M)

2LT SYLAS D DA-O PN(M)

MSgt Esau B Loterte PN(M)

Sgt Cherry Mae M Perez PN(M)

Cpl Mary Joy M Hayahay PN(M)

Cpl Jolly T Mateo PN(M)

Pvt Julius S Gormate PN(M)

Pvt Rochelle Walat PN(M)

2nd Marine Brigade

3rd Marine Brigade

4th Marine Brigade

Combat Service Brigade

Marine Battalion Landing Team-3

Marine Battalion Landing Team-6

56 Marine Company

1	About the Cover
3	Messages
10	Marine & Machine
14	In the Fight for what is Rightfully Ours
18	Gateway to the Philippines gets Sovereignty Marker
19	Simok't Settlement
21	MBLT-8 Team Peacemaker
23	The Endgame
25	Peace and Security
27	MBLT-6 Showcases Amphibious Warfare Proficiency in Basilan
29	WESMINCOM Commander leads Flag Raising in the Remotest Island of Tawi-Tawi
31	Hope, Peace and Security Bloom in the City of Flowers
34	Unleashing the Power of the Mortar Company
35	From Down Under
37	Making Waves
39	Dauntless and Unfazed
41	Peace Spoilers Beware
43	From Down South and into the North
45	Enter the Brave
47	Most Ready to Respond
49	New Voyages Ahead
51	MBLT-12 joins Kamahardikaan Sin Tawi-Tawi 2023
53	No Territory Too Far
55	Harnessing the Power of Mangroves for a sustainable future
57	Bringing Hope in Times of Calamities
61	Beyond Traditional Training Regimes
63	Epitomizing the PMC's Brand of Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan
65	Admiral's Cup Champ 4th year in a row
69	Balabac It Is
71	The Marine Honor Guards
73	Guardians of the Philippine Marine Corps Legacy
75	Kailan Dapat Magretiro sa Serbisyo Militar
77	Wanda Little Champions
79	The Four Horsemen
81	My Drill Instructor
82	A Hundred Miles

Table of CONTENTS

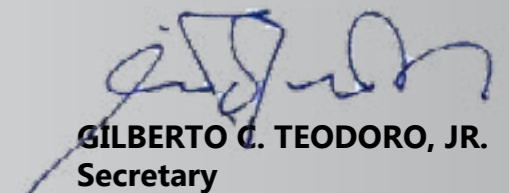


Message from the
SECRETARY
of National Defense

Warmest greetings and congratulations to the Philippine Marine Corps on your 73rd Birthday.

Through the years, the Philippine Marine Corps has upheld the nation's highest ideals of bravery, honor, and loyal service. Your theme, "PMC@73: Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of Our Maritime Nation," encapsulates the steadfast commitment that you demonstrated for more than seven decades to defending our archipelago's sovereignty and safeguarding our people's freedom. As you celebrate this milestone, may you continue to stand tall, face challenges head-on, and exemplify the true spirit of valor. I salute all members of the Marine Corps for your selfless service to our country.

Once again, happy 73rd birthday to the Philippine Marine, Corps!


GILBERTO C. TEODORO, JR.
Secretary



Message from the
CHIEF OF STAFF
Armed Forces of the Philippines

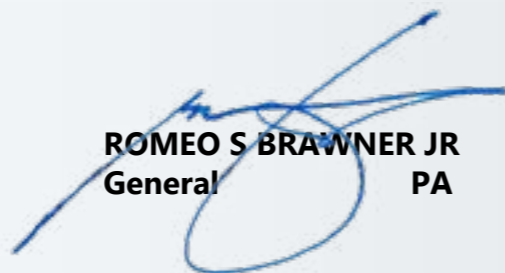
On behalf of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, allow me to convey my greetings to the Philippine Marine Corps on its 73rd Marine Corps Birthday. Maligayang kaarawan sa bawat miyembro ng Hukbong Kawal Pandagat ng Pilipinas!

For numerous years, the PMC has been a dependable and vital component of the AFP's amphibious operations, as well as a significant contributor to the mandate of defending the people and securing the state. Your efforts in peacekeeping will not be overlooked, as highlighted by your diverse amphibious and land operations. These admirable efforts attest to the PMC's importance and responsiveness and their contribution to the AFP's reputation as an organization that best serves the country in war and peace.

Indeed, this year's theme, "**PMC@73: Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of our Maritime Nation,**" strongly embodies the dedication and sacrifices of our Marines and the competent PMC leadership rooted within its core values - Honor, Duty, Valor. Therefore, I wish to commend the PMC members for their valiant efforts. The country genuinely appreciates your unwavering dedication and courage.

As you celebrate 73 years of committed service, the AFP is certain that the PMC will do what's impossible, possible -- exceptionally and exceedingly. Additionally, every step, activity, and planning you take will make a difference. May you utilize them as guiding principles to instill a culture of excellence in your entrusted responsibilities.

**Muli, maraming salamat at binabati ko kayong lahat!
Mabuhay ang Hukbong Kawal Pandagat ng Pilipinas!
Mabuhay ang Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas!**


ROMEO S BRAWNER JR
General PA



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

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the Officers, Enlisted Personnel, and Civilian Human Resources of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) on your 73rd Founding Anniversary!

For this year's celebration, the theme "PMC @ 73: Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of our Maritime Nation," is an apt banner for PMC's unparalleled readiness, forward-thinking approach, and relentless commitment which have fueled your remarkable accomplishments and contributions to our maritime nation over the past 73 years.

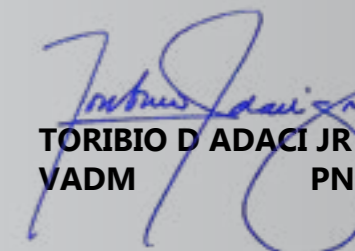
The PMC has been and continues to be one of the pillars of our Navy's strength, especially now that we are realizing our vision to become a modern and multi-capable naval force, and shifting our focus to external defense operations.

Your mastery of amphibious warfare is the foundation upon which we project our power beyond our shores and secure our strategic interests. As we improve our capabilities to ably respond to emerging threats at sea, we look to you to fortify our strength with your rapid deployment capability and establishment of forward operating bases on-ground that serve as crucial staging points for our naval and joint military operations.

In the past year alone, your commendable accomplishments in ground operations, enemy neutralization, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and crisis management, among others, have greatly contributed to the defense and development of our maritime nation. You also served as one of our focal points in pivotal collaborations with other branches of the armed forces and counterparts from foreign militaries which is particularly important in the enhancement of our readiness and interoperability and in establishing synergy in the realm of external defense.

As we celebrate another fruitful year, I enjoin the men and women of the Philippine Marine Corps to renew your commitment to the service and remain unyielding in your dedication to excellence.

Again, Happy 73rd Anniversary to "the few, the proud" --the Marines!
Mabuhay ang Hukbong Kawal Pandagat ng Pilipinas!


TORIBIO D ADACI JR
VADM PN



Message from the **COMMANDANT** Philippine Marine Corps

The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) proudly commemorates more than seven decades of unflinching dedication to the defense and security of our maritime nation by marking its 73rd birthday. With the theme "**PMC @73: MOST READY, ALWAYS FORWARD IN THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME NATION,**" the Philippine Marine Corps considers its illustrious past while looking to a future characterized by readiness, adaptability, and advancement.

The Philippine Marine Corps has been one of the most potent formations in the Philippine Armed Forces since its founding on November 7, 1950. The Marine Corps has constantly demonstrated itself as a dependable and nimble defender of our country's interests with a firm commitment to safeguarding our coastal regions, upholding peace within our boundaries, and promoting regional stability.

As your Commandant, I strongly believe in the importance of cultivating a mindset of being the most ready force. This mindset encompasses a deep sense of dedication, professionalism, and resilience that each and every Marine must possess. It is a mindset that drives us to continually strive for excellence, to push our limits, and to be prepared for any mission or task that may come our way, and this requires us to be lean and mean forces that fall in the category between special operations forces and multi-role and/or heavy military units.

To be the most ready force, we must embrace a philosophy of developing a most ready force. This philosophy emphasizes the ongoing process of growth, improvement, and transformation. It requires us to invest in our personnel, equipment, and training, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of military readiness. We must adapt to the ever-changing operational environment, stay ahead of emerging threats, and leverage new technologies and innovations.

Developing a most ready force also means fostering a culture of continuous learning, where every Marine is encouraged to expand their knowledge, skills, and capabilities. It is through this commitment to personal and professional development that we can build a highly-skilled, agile, and adaptable force capable of meeting the challenges of today and tomorrow.

On this momentous occasion, I call upon each and every one of you to embrace the mindset of being the most ready force and to embody the philosophy of developing a most ready force. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence, resilience, and continuous improvement to be the MOST READY Force. Together, we will overcome any obstacle, protect our nation, and uphold the proud legacy of the Philippine Marine Corps.

Happy 73rd birthday, Philippine Marine Corps! Together, let us forge ahead, united and determined, towards a brighter and more secure future for our maritime nation.

Arturo G. Rojas
ARTURO G ROJAS
MGEN PN(M)



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

"PMC@73: MOST READY, ALWAYS FORWARD IN THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME NATION"

On this momentous occasion of our 73rd birthday, I take pride and honor in commemorating the unwavering commitment of the Philippine Marine Corps. Our theme, "Philippine Marine Corps @ 73: Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of our Maritime Nation", encapsulates our enduring mission. For seven decades, we have been the vanguard of our maritime heritage, ever ready to defend our nation's security. We salute the valor and sacrifice of our Marines past and present, who had tirelessly upheld our duty to protect the Filipino people.

Throughout our rich history, we had have faced countless challenges, adapting and evolving to meet the ever-changing landscape of security threats. Today, as we look to the future, our commitment must remain unshaken through cultivating a mindset of being the most ready force. Hence, we must vow to be "Most Ready, Always Forward", standing as a symbol of our strength and resilience. The seas may be unpredictable, but the Philippine Marine Corps remains a steadfast guardian of our maritime interests.

As Command Sergeant Major, I call upon every Marine to rekindle the flames of dedication and service that burn within us. Let us embrace our mission with renewed vigor and mindset, knowing that our nation relies on our unwavering commitment. Together, we will continue to protect our maritime nation, ensuring a secure and prosperous future for all Filipinos. Happy 73rd birthday, Philippine Marine Corps, and may our legacy of excellence endure for generations to come.

Antonio O. Limitares
Antonio O. Limitares
CMS PN(M)



MOST READY: Leading the Way in Nation's Defense

MARINE & MACHINE:

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CDR A.I. BOT

Pvt Rochelle Walat PN(M) and CDR A.I Bot

Pvt Rochele N Walat PMC joined the Philippine Marine Corps in 2021 under Special Enlistment Program. She is currently assigned with the R3 Operations Section of the Headquarters Coastal Defense Regiment. Pvt Wala is a graduate of BS Industrial Engineering. She has been involved in crafting several concept papers of the Regiment to and has been actively participating in several key undertaking related to the execution of the CDR 9-year Organizational Development Plan.

CDR A.I. Bot was activated by R6, CDR in the 1st quarter of 2023 as part of the overall Knowledge Management System (KMS) of the Coastal Defense Regiment. This ongoing initiative starting way back in 2020 is ably headed by Major Jean Paul San Gabriel PN(M).



Intrigued by what knowledge current Artificial Intelligence can offer on topics of interest to the Philippine Marine Corps, I interviewed the CDR A.I. Bot by asking Three (3) questions in order to draw objective insights from a computer machine's cognitive recesses.

PVT WALAT: Can you describe how coastal defense can best work for defending an archipelago?

CDRBOT(AI): In an archipelago, coastal defense can present unique challenges due to the scattered and fragmented nature of the islands. It requires careful planning, coordination, and the utilization of diverse resources and strategies. Here is a general overview of how coastal defense works in an archipelago:

1. **Prioritization and Threat Assessment:** The first step in coastal defense in an archipelago is identifying the strategic importance and

vulnerabilities of different islands and coastal areas. A thorough assessment of potential threats, such as hostile forces, piracy, smuggling, or illegal fishing, helps determine where defensive measures should be focused.

2. **Surveillance and Monitoring:** Effective surveillance and monitoring systems are crucial in an archipelago. This involves deploying radar systems, coastal patrol vessels, maritime patrol aircraft, and other sensors to cover a wide area and detect any suspicious activities or threats. Remote sensing technologies can also be utilized to monitor activities in hard-to-reach areas.

3. **Interagency Collaboration:** Coordinating efforts among various agencies and stakeholders is essential in an archipelago. This includes the military, coast guard, law enforcement agencies, intelligence services,

local authorities, and even neighboring countries. Regular informationsharing, joint exercises, and collaborative operations strengthen coastal defense capabilities.

4. **Mobile and Flexible Assets:** Given the scattered nature of islands in an archipelago, maintaining mobile and flexible assets is crucial. This includes having fast-response vessels, helicopters, and surveillance drones that can quickly reach and patrol different islands and coastal regions. Mobile defense forces, such as naval infantry or marines, can be stationed strategically to respond rapidly to threats.

5. **Maritime Domain Awareness:** Developing a comprehensive understanding of the maritime domain in an archipelago is essential for effective coastal defense. This includes establishing maritime domain awareness systems that integrate data from various sources, such as radar

systems, AIS (Automatic Identification System), satellite imagery, and local fishermen or residents who act as human sensors.

6. Networked Defense: Creating a networked defense system enhances the effectiveness of coastal defense in an archipelago. This involves connecting surveillance assets, coordinating communication systems, and utilizing information-sharing platforms. It enables real-time response, quick decision-making, and the consolidation of forces to counter threats more efficiently.

7. Deterrence and Collaboration: Demonstrating a strong deterrence posture and promoting collaboration among regional partners are important aspects of coastal defense in an archipelago. Developing joint patrols, sharing intelligence, conducting joint exercises, and establishing integrated response mechanisms helps to deter potential aggressors and enhances regional security.

8. Environmental Protection: Coastal defense measures in an archipelago should also consider environmental protection. Preserving fragile ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and minimizing the impact on marine life are crucial for sustainable coastal defense. Balancing defense requirements with environmental considerations is vital for long-term security and sustainability. It's important to note that the specific implementation of coastal defense in an archipelago will depend on the size, geopolitical context, topography, resources, and threat perceptions of the specific archipelago in question.

PVT WALAT: How can coastal defense best work in conjunction with amphibious forces?

CDR BOT(AI): Coastal defense and amphibious forces often work in conjunction to enhance overall defensive capabilities and execute amphibious

operations. Here's how coastal defense works in conjunction with amphibious forces:

1. Defense of Beachheads: When conducting amphibious operations, amphibious forces establish beachheads on enemy coasts or contested coastal areas. Coastal defense plays a vital role in protecting these beachheads from hostile counterattacks. Combined arms operations, integrating coastal defense units and amphibious forces, ensure the defense of the initial landing zone.

2. Security and Perimeter Defense: Coastal defense units provide additional security and perimeter defense around amphibious landing sites, maintaining a defensive posture to prevent enemy infiltration or attacks. This includes deploying surveillance systems, laying obstacles, establishing defensive positions, and conducting patrols to ensure the security of the landing area and subsequent

operations.

3. Naval Gunfire Support: Coastal defense units can provide naval gunfire support to amphibious forces during an assault or subsequent operations. This involves utilizing naval guns, artillery, or shore-based missile systems to engage enemy targets, suppress defenses, and support the advance of amphibious forces. Coastal defense units can bring their firepower to bear against enemy positions in coordination with the amphibious assault.

4. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR): Coastal defense units can contribute to intelligence gathering, surveillance, and reconnaissance efforts in support of amphibious operations. They can provide valuable information about enemy coastal defenses, obstacles, minefields, and other potential threats that may impact the successful execution of the amphibious mission. This information helps amphibious forces plan

and adapt their operations accordingly.

5. Force Protection: Coastal defense units assist in force protection measures for amphibious forces operating within the littoral environment. They can provide anti-aircraft and anti-missile defense capabilities, counter-swimmer operations, and anti-boat/ship measures to safeguard amphibious assets and personnel from enemy threats, including air, surface, or subsurface attacks.

6. Joint Training and Integration: Coastal defense units and amphibious forces often conduct joint training exercises and drills to enhance their interoperability and coordination. This enables them to refine tactics, techniques, and procedures for effective joint operations and seamless integration of forces during amphibious assault and subsequent phases.

7. Post-Landing Security: After the initial amphibious landing, coastal defense units can secure and defend the

coastal zone, protecting lines of communication, supply routes, and rear areas. This allows amphibious forces to consolidate their beachhead and expand their operations inland with reduced vulnerability to enemy attacks from the coast. The collaboration between coastal defense units and amphibious forces ensures a comprehensive approach to littoral operations, combining forces to safeguard the success of amphibious missions, extend defensive perimeters, and provide security during subsequent operations. By integrating their capabilities and expertise, coastal defense and amphibious forces enhance overall offensive and defensive capabilities in coastal environments.

PVT WALAT: How can marine missile capabilities enhance amphibious operations?

CDRBOT(AI): Missile capabilities can enhance marine amphibious operations in several ways:

1. Deterrence: The presence of a credible missile capability can serve as a deterrent against potential adversaries, thereby preventing or minimizing the likelihood of conflicts or aggression. The ability to threaten targets with long-range missiles can discourage adversaries from engaging in hostile actions against amphibious forces.

2. Suppression of Enemy Defenses: Missiles can be utilized to neutralize or suppress enemy air defenses, coastal defenses, and other key targets that could pose a threat to amphibious operations. By targeting and disabling these defenses, missile capabilities can create safe corridors for amphibious forces to conduct their operations.

3. Precision Strike: Missiles with precision guidance systems can accurately engage and neutralize

specific targets, such as enemy command and control centers, communication installations, or key infrastructure. This enables amphibious forces to swiftly degrade the enemy's capabilities and disrupt their operations.

4. Anti-Ship Capability: Missile systems that have anti-ship capabilities can provide effective naval firepower against enemy warships and vessels. Such missiles can target and engage hostile naval assets, thus providing a layer of protection for the amphibious forces and enabling them to operate in littoral or coastal environments more safely.

5. Expeditionary Fires: Missile systems can provide expeditionary fire support to the amphibious task force, offering a long-range strike capability against targets deep in the enemy's territory. This enhances

the operational reach and flexibility of the marine amphibious forces.

6. Force Protection: Missile defense systems, such as anti-missile interceptors or surface-to-air missiles, can safeguard the amphibious forces by intercepting and neutralizing incoming enemy missiles or air threats. This helps to enhance the survivability and protection of personnel, platforms, and critical assets involved in the operation. It is important to note that the integration and coordination of missile capabilities within the broader amphibious operation plan require careful consideration and synchronization with other elements, including naval, air, and ground forces.

PVT WALAT: Thank you, CDR Bot.

CDR BOT(AI): You are welcome Marine!



IN THE FIGHT FOR WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS REGIMENTING COASTAL DEFENSE [WITH INSIGHTS FROM THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT] LTCOL NORMAN D REYES PN(M)

We Have a Problem

The Philippines is an archipelagic state that emphasizes the unity of land and waters, and requiring that baselines be drawn by connecting the appropriate points of the “outermost islands to encircle”. Thus, the islands of the Philippines shall be regarded as a single unit, so that the waters around, between, and connecting the islands of its archipelago, irrespective of their breadth and dimensions, shall form part of its internal waters and subject to its exclusive sovereignty.

We identify the issue over the West Philippine Sea (WPS) [in the eastern parts of

the South China Sea (SCS)] as the foremost security challenge to our sovereignty and territorial integrity- China being the primary security threat. This bears a direct, great, and adverse toll on the free and open Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) in the SCS where China has built several artificial islands installed with strategic defense assets within and surrounding the Philippines Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

These artificial islands pose a grave danger as direct threats to the Philippines as they adversely affect the country's sea control in its maritime domain and makes the country susceptible to the naval force of China.

Furthermore, China conducts persistent “gray-zone” operations within the Philippines' EEZ and territorial waters. The deployment of Chinese vessels in the area have also been preventing Filipinos from accessing its natural resources and have been hindering the operations of Philippine public and naval vessels in the region.

Furthermore, China's nine-dash line illegally encloses about 85.7% of the entire South China Sea, equivalent to 3.0-million square kilometers of the 3.5-million square kilometers total surface area of the South China Sea, where over one-half of the world's seaborne trade passes,

valued at US\$5.3T annually.

At stake for the Philippines in the WPS under China's illegal nine-dash line are the following:

(1) about 80 percent of its EEZ comprising 381,000 square kilometers of maritime space, including the entire Reed Bank and part of the Malampaya gas field; and

(2) 100 percent of its Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) estimated at over 150,000 square kilometers of maritime space.

This unlawful claim illegally encroaches on over 531,000 square kilometers of Philippine EEZ and ECS, including all the fishery, oil, gas, and mineral resources found within this vast area, which is larger than the total land area of the Philippines of about 300,000 square kilometers. This Chinese aggression is the gravest external threat to the Philippines since World War II.

We Have A Solution

Equalize the Battlefield with **“Ma chines Manned by Marines”**. As the nation grapples with protecting its maritime rights, the modern warfare landscape's digital evolution is evident in the Philippine Marine Corps' Archipelagic Coastal Defense Strategy. Central to this strategy is the Coastal Defense Regiment (CDR), which leans heavily on credible defensive capabilities through the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion (SBASM Bn) and the Shore-Based Air Defenses Battalion (SBAD Bn) deployed in strategic coastal maneuver areas.



The maritime domain, with its vast and intricate landscape, demands a multifaceted defensive approach. One of these approaches is “tag-team” of the SBAD Bn and the SBASM

Bn that offers a robust strategy or solution to address maritime territorial defense challenges.

This strategy is a layered defense mechanism. The outer layer, helmed by the SBASM Bn, focuses on deterring and neutralizing incoming naval threats (read ships), and serves as the primary line of defense against potential naval incursions (in conjunction with the Philippine Fleet). On the other hand, the inner layer, managed by the SBAD Bn, zeroes in on aerial threats by ensuring the skies remain clear of enemy aircrafts, drones, missiles, or rockets (in



conjunction with the PAF). When faced with combined aerial and naval threats, these battalions spring into action with a coordinated response. This means that while the SBASM Bn confronts the naval component, SBAD Bn engages the aerial threats/ adversaries.

War and Technology (Ukraine-Russia Conflict Setting)

In today's evolving realm of modern warfare, technology has redefined battlefield strategies. The Russia-Ukraine conflict vividly showcased how drones can have transformative power and become “game-changers”. As drone technology becomes pervasive, even nations without vast technological resources, like Ukraine, harnessed them effectively. Ukraine employed drones not just for surveillance but also for offense thereby dealing significant blows to Russian forces.

On the other hand, drones too have their limitations because in contested airspaces, they face vulnerabilities against sophisticated anti-air defense systems. The Russia-Ukraine conflict shows that traditional military power, marked by sheer numbers and conventional assets, can be toppled by innovative tactics and strategic technology deployments.

Additionally, Ukraine's air defenders have been reported to have saved countless lives by shooting down incoming missiles and drones at a rate of 90%-Kyiv being the best protected city. Ukraine also sunk the Moskva (Russian flagship Black Sea missile cruiser) using a subsonic Neptune anti-ship missile (old Soviet anti-ship missile with a range of 200 miles). Of recent memory in this regard, is when the British lost six ships to missile attacks from Argentinian aircrafts that underlined to navies around the world the vulnerability of ships to missile attacks (Falklands War, 1982).

Call to Action

The CDR and its SBASM and SBAD Battalions are major players in the country's maritime strategic considerations pertaining to maritime defense capabilities. They are imperatives to the defense of our archipelagic/maritime nation and the capabilities that they bring will make the Corps more relevant in defense lenses.



It is in this light that the CDR thanks the PMC and Philippine Navy (PN) leadership for their support all these times in establishing and sustaining the unit and its two battalions as it prays for more support from all members of the Fleet-Marine Team in order to fast-track the realization of these capabilities and bring the custodian units to the level of Mission Capable status.

The accomplishments of the Corps, the PN, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in this era of territorial disputes and external defense operations should no longer be merely based on metrics like ships' steaming time, aircraft flying time, or the infantry's “body counts”. Instead, accomplishments should now be measured by the actual freedom and protection that Filipinos can enjoy. Collective accomplishments should translate into Filipinos navigating the SLOCS in the nation's territorial waters and EEZ without fear of external/ internal interferences or threats.

This dream of freely navigating Filipinos in Philippine waters can be better helped (and earlier achieved) under the kind of protection that the Philippine Marine Corps and the Philippine Navy can provide through the Coastal Defense Regiment and its Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile and Shore-Based Air Defense Battalions.

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Jamaica, December 10, 1982
Page 11, HPN Naval Cooperation Plan 2021
Page 472, Volume 90, Philippine Law Journal
PMC Archipelagic Coastal Defense Strategy (2021)
Snehesh, AP (2023). What Russia-Ukraine Teaches Us. The Print, 24 February 2023. <https://theprint.in/defence/what-russia-ukraine-war-teaches-us-5-big-tactical-takeaways-for-india/1393223/>
Jones, SG (2022). Russia's Ill-fated Invasion of Ukraine: Lessons in Modern Warfare. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), 01 June 2022. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/russias-ill-fated-invasion-ukraine-lessons-modern-warfare>
Insights of MGEN JONAS R LUMAWAG PN(M), 67TH TNIG, PN

ALWAYS FORWARD FORTIFYING THE FRONTIER



GATEWAY to the PHILIPPINES Gets Sovereignty Marker

On July 14, 2023, the 2nd Marine Brigade and the Local Government of Simunul held a groundbreaking ceremony for the establishment of a sovereignty marker in Manuk Mangkaw, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi. Simunul holds a unique place in the country's history, for it is in its shores, that Islam first came into the archipelago. The marker will serve as a symbol of the people's desire to live in peace; it is likewise intended to empower the people to exercise their sovereignty over this island feature located in the southernmost part of the Philippines.

Brigadier General
Romeo T Racadio, Commander

of the 2nd Marine Brigade said, **"Manuk Mangkaw is a beautiful place, rich in resources, and amazing people. This place should be protected from lawless elements who would want to take over the place and destroy their livelihood, ruin peaceful living, and turn into a haven for those who want to overthrow the government. This should not be the case and this place should be protected."**

Mayor Wasilah T. Abdurahman expressed solidarity with the Philippine Marines in this endeavor, **"With the strengthened collaboration of the LGU Simunul and AFP, we will**

achieve what we all want in our peaceful place. With this initiative from our counterpart, the AFP, we can continue our peaceful living in Manuk Mangkaw and for future development and establishment of the military in the area."

Lieutenant Colonel Junnibert Tubo PN(M), Commanding Officer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-12, facilitated the groundbreaking ceremony and the construction of the sovereignty marker. Its placement is part of the 2nd Marine Brigade's campaign to assist the local government in protecting the island from exploitation.



“SIMOK’T” SETTLEMENT PAVES WAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

1LT JEROME A CABRERA PN(M)

**“World peace, like community peace, does not require that each man love his neighbor, it requires only that they live together with mutual tolerance, submitting their disputes to a just and peaceful settlement.”
– John F. Kennedy**

Buldon is one of the predominantly Iranun municipalities of Maguindanao del Norte. It has seen the horrors of armed conflict, having been one of the areas that took the brunt of the all-out-war against the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) back in the year 2000. Years of conflict have impeded Buldon’s development; even after hostilities has long ceased between government security forces and the MILF, violence is still rife in Buldon. Clan feud, locally known as rido and simok’t as it is called in the Iranun language, is unfortunately prevalent. Warring families continue to inflict pain and suffering not only to each other, but to the whole community. This problem is undeniably the main

obstacle to Buldon’s journey towards progress and development. The volatile environment where violence would quickly erupt impedes the delivery of services and projects.

Determined to steer Buldon away from the cycle of violence, its Local Government Unit, together with the neighboring municipalities in the Iranun Corridor, organized and established the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team (ADRT) composed of Muslim leaders and Ustadz, whose mission is to bridge and reconcile families in conflict to pave the way for settlement and healing.

The joint efforts of the ADRT along with the Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has resulted in the cessation of hostilities and amicable settlements between 11 warring families.

Since the transfer of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-2 (MBLT-2) in April 2023 to keep watch over the five municipalities of the Iranun corridor of Maguindanao del Norte, it has faithfully done its share in this peacebuilding effort by securing the areas of conflict.

These settlements are a clear manifestation of the united front of the local government units and the security sector. Moreover, the “Balik-Baril Program” was implemented to supplement the fight against conflict. Nine barangays have undergone this program that has resulted in the surrender of loose firearms and members of Potential Private Armed Groups (PPAGs) within the municipality. In fact, on June 19 and August 22, 2023, two personalities listed in the Maguindanao del Norte Provincial Police Office of members of Potential Private Armed Groups have peacefully surrendered and turned over their loose firearms.

After more than two decades, the promise of development finally makes a breakthrough as the Municipality of Buldon sets on its journey towards becoming a peaceful and progressive community. Tourist spots have been opened and farm-to-market road projects have been intensified. As it remains faithful to its mandated task, the MBLT-2 pledges to sustain peace and order, for development to take deep root and grow for the betterment of the people of Maguindanao del Norte.





MBLT-8 TEAM PEACEMAKER

Reliable Northern Gatekeepers

2LT PRINCESS JOY R MAMARADLO PN(M)



The unit served alongside the Philippine Army, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and other rescue units in the Joint Search, Rescue, and Retrieval Operation of the ill-fated CESSNA 152 plane, which was subsequently discovered at the boundary of Salvacion, Luna, and San Jose, Pudtol, Apayao in August 2023.

ALWAYS FORWARD IN DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR NATION

To ensure credible coastal defense and security posture, as well as maintain peace and order in its area of operations, MBLT-8 regularly conducts mobility security patrols. Moreover, the unit has participated in the Mobilization Exercise 2023 (MOBEX CY 2023) which aims to raise the level of its combat readiness along with Marine Reservists. In addition, the Philippine Marine Corps, through MBLT-8 also took part in the PH- US Marine Aviation Support Activity (MASA) 2023 following the BALIKATAN Exercise 2023 (BK 38-23).



These exercises were designed to enhance the capabilities of the combined forces specifically in the conduct of aviation-support operations, camp/coastal defense operations, and engineering support.

MOVING FORWARD

In support of the Philippine Marine Corps' mission, MBLT-8 pledges to continue being the most-ready force that is responsive and adaptive to the ever-changing operational environment and by working together with other government agencies and partners for the defense and security of our nation.

For the past 45 years after its activation on July 28, 1978, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8 remains firmly committed to its mission of maintaining peace and security and supporting community development under its area of operations. Formerly operating in the Southern parts of the Philippines, MBLT-8's redeployment to Northern Luzon greatly contributes to the AFP's shift from security stability operations to external defense mission, territorial defense operations and amphibious seaborne operations. Widely known as Team Peacemaker, MBLT-8 intensified its efforts to become a purveyor of security, peace, and development in Ilocos Norte and Cagayan Province.

In line with this year's Philippine Marine

Corps Anniversary theme: PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS @ 73: MOST READY, ALWAYS FORWARD IN THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME NATION, Team Peacemaker takes pride in its achievements that have greatly contributed to the accomplishment of the PMC's mission.

MOST READY

Aligned with the Philippine Marine Corps' mandate and archipelagic coastal defense strategy, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8 actively participated and conducted various exercises that tested the efficiency, and effectiveness of the Corps' existing doctrines.

MBLT-8 executed OPORD BOUBON as part of Exercise "IRUGI", a unilateral exercise initiated by the

4th Marine Brigade with the objective of conducting defensive operations within the unit's area of operations. This boosted operational readiness and situational awareness of every personnel; enabling them to destroy foreign aggressors and clear the maritime and land domain from threats.

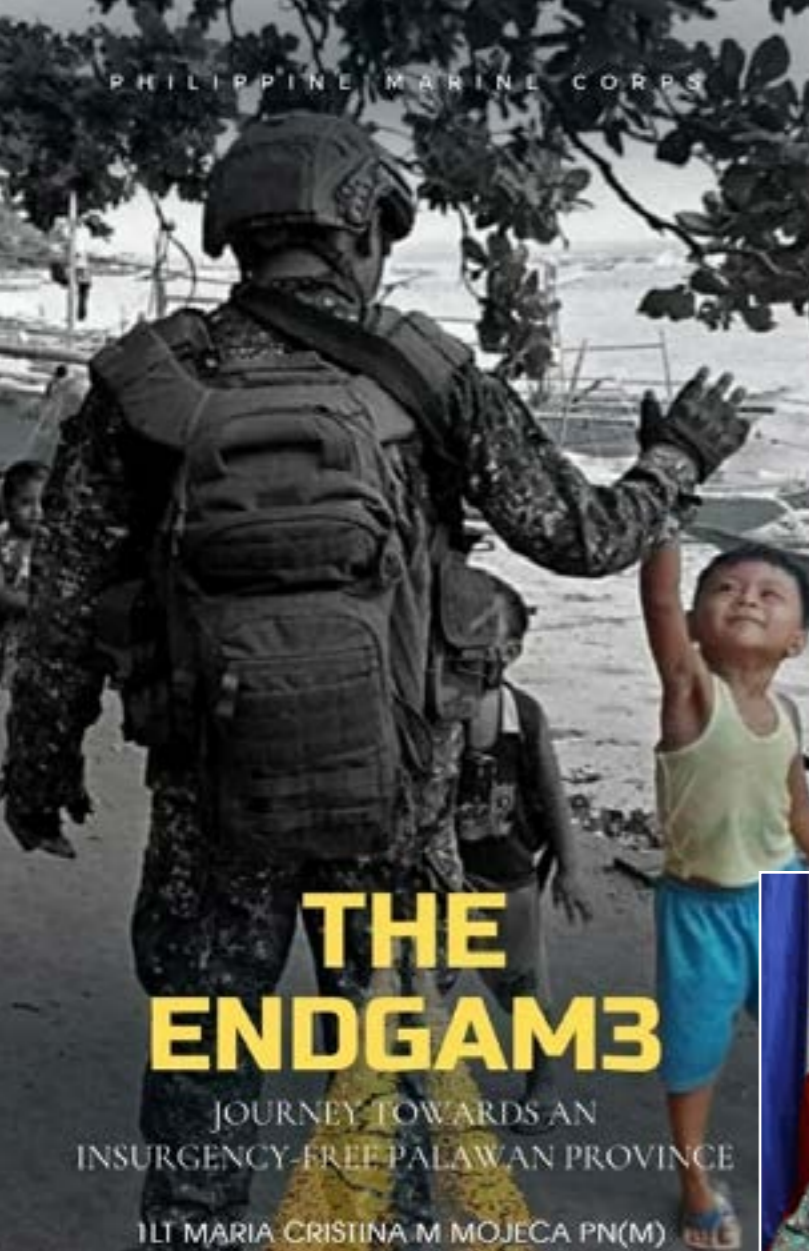
Moreover, regular road runs, gun drills, and combative sports are being implemented to enhance skills and proficiency in self-defense, and to maintain the personnel's physical fitness.

The unit has also been at the forefront of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations following the onslaught of Typhoon Egay and Goring in Northern Luzon. Amidst the threat brought by the calamity, MBLT-8 remained a force the people could rely upon.



MBLT-8 likewise took part in the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) held within the unit's area of operations as part of its readiness in the event of a devastating tremblor.





book, you are invited to explore Palawan's remarkable transformation. In this paradise, hidden jungles and villages saw the CTG's violence, leaving families broken and dreams shattered. But against this backdrop, MBLT-3 set out to bring peace and prosperity to Palawan. Together with local government units, the military in Palawan – Western Command and the 3rd Marine Brigade, civilians, and the strong Palaweños, they worked to extinguish the CTG's flames of insurgency and bring in a time of safety.

As you dive into the book's chapters, you'll walk beside these courageous Marines, guided by their bravery through challenging times. You'll see their determined efforts as they reach out to communities hurt by the CTG, sowing trust and hope where there was once violence and deceit. Through dawn patrols and decisive battles, you'll witness how they removed the CTG threat, making way for Palawan's comeback. "The Endgame" isn't just about battles; it's a story of communities' strength, government resilience, and people who faced chaos with unwavering determination.



Imagine the stunning landscapes of Palawan, where beautiful beaches meet wild forests. In this paradise, something significant happened. A gripping story unfolded in the rugged mountains and pristine shores of Northern Palawan. Here, brave men and women from the Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MBLT-3) found themselves in a tough battle against a ruthless enemy called the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG). It all began on a crucial day in June 2019 when MBLT-3 landed in Palawan. Instead of peaceful nature, they encountered tension and a land troubled by violence and unrest caused by the CTG. This is the captivating story of "The Endgame."

Within the pages of this extraordinary

Beyond the battles and ambushes, this story reveals the lives of former rebels. Their stories tell of hardship, lies, and struggles during their time with the CTG. You'll learn about their journeys of realizing the truth, escaping an ideology they once believed in, and the humanity that still resides within them despite their past choices.

However, victory wasn't only on the battlefield. The book also sheds light on the tireless work of local government in maintaining peace and the community's exceptional cooperation in supporting development through a comprehensive effort known as the Whole-of-Nation approach. In some remote places, trust and cooperation had to be rebuilt. The people who chose to believe in unity and a brighter future became the foundation of Palawan's transformation.

This historical account weaves together stories of sacrifice, friendship, and unbreakable spirit, creating a vibrant tapestry that tells Palawan's story of recovery. It's a testament to the power of determination and a reminder that even in the darkest times, hope shines bright. In the pages of this book, you'll be taken to the frontlines of Marine Battalion Landing Team-3's battle against insurgency, deep into the mountains, remote villages, and isolated coastal communities of Northern Palawan. "The Endgame" reveals how the Marines' determination and bravery, the courage of former rebels, the commitment of local government officials, and the trust of the community came together to bring peace and progress to Palawan.

Get ready for an engaging and inspiring journey. "The Endgame" isn't just a book; it's a testament to human resilience and a community's determination to overcome challenges.



PEACE AND SECURITY

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

MAJ EMERY L TORRE PN(M)

The Commander, Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi/ 2nd Marine Brigade, Brigadier General Romeo T. Racadio PN(M), led the send-off ceremony for the 1st Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) Active Auxiliary (CAA) Company with Hon. Nurbert M. Sahali, Mayor of Panglima Sugala, and Hon. Jimuel Que, Mayor of Bongao, represented by Hon. Sangkula Nagder Asula, Al-haj, Councilor, at the Naval Station Juan Magluyan, Panglima Sugala on July 6, 2023.

The 1st CAA, led by Cpt Rodel C Baquial (INF) PA, Commanding Officer, 17th Special Forces Company, Philippine Army is under the operational control of the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi. It has a total strength of 112 Special Forces-trained civilian volunteers deployed in Bongao and Panglima Sugala. Their mission is to support the regular forces in the protection of life and property; secure vital facilities and public utility; and assist the local government in the delivery of services especially during emergencies. Their deployment is part of Western Mindanao Command's sustainment efforts to strengthen its Territorial Defense Operations (TDO) capability.

BGen Racadio encouraged the troops to effectively use their training acquired from the Army and Marines to protect and serve the people and their communities.



MBLT-6 SHOWCASES AMPHIBIOUS WARFARE PROFICIENCY in **BASILAN**

After successfully completing its retraining and refurbishing program earlier this year, Marine Battalion Landing Team-6 (MBLT-6), as the 2nd Marine Amphibious Ready Unit (MARU) of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), was deployed to Zamboanga City under the operational control of the Western Mindanao Command (WESMINCOM).

Within a month of its deployment, the MBLT-6, operating as the National Maneuver Amphibious Force (NMAF) of the PMC, demonstrated its capabilities by conducting seaborne maneuvers during a focused military operation (FMO) on Kauluan Island in the Municipality of Al-Barka, Basilan, on March 29, 2023. This FMO was executed in accordance with WESMINCOM Directive and MBLT-6 OPORD "EPIBATAI" aimed at neutralizing remnants of the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) under @Khatan and other

lawless elements (LLEs) under @Junga. The Special Operations Platoon-6 (SOP-6) of MBLT-6 was tasked as supporting effort 1 (SE1), to establish a blocking position, while simultaneously providing support to Naval Special Operations Unit-6 (NAVSOU-6) that served as the main effort (ME) during their amphibious raid at the suspected hideout of the remnants of the ASG. With the assistance of PG901, which provided naval gunfire support, NAVSOU-6 and SOP-6 successfully secured the objective and sent the enemy scampering to different directions. Several items were recovered, including two M16 rifles, one M1 Garand rifle, one rifle grenade HE, live ammunition, a cellphone, radios, and various other war materiel. The execution of this focused military operation earned for the MBLT-6 the trust and confidence of both the leadership of the WESTMINCOM and the Naval Forces Western Mindanao (NFWM).

On August 6, 2023, MBLT-6 would once again demonstrate its prowess during its involvement in the execution of OPLAN PAGLALANSAG OMEGA (Implementation of Search Warrant against Loose Firearms) and OPLAN BIG BERTHA spearheaded by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Regional Field Unit-9 (CIDG RFU-9) against a certain Yashin Mambun who is allegedly engaged in large-scale illegal drug trade and illegal selling of firearms in Basilan, Sulu and Zamboanga City, and who was previously arrested for the crime of murder. SOP-6, NAVSOU-6, Naval Intelligence and Security Group (NISG), together with CIDG RFU-9 successfully conducted Law Enforcement and Support Operation (LESO) through an amphibious raid at the vicinity of Sangbay Small Island in the Municipality of Hadji Muhtamad. This operation resulted in the apprehension of Yashin Mambun and the seizure of crucial evidence in his possession.

The operation resulted in the confiscation of approximately 138.48 grams of suspected illegal drugs (methamphetamine hydro-chloride) with

an estimated value of Php 928,046.00; one unit of AK47 C2 858 Tactical-4V Cal 7.62; one magazine assembly for Cal 7.62; 26 pieces of live ammunition for Cal. 7.62; one unit TEC-KG9, 9mm ; one piece magazine assembly for KG9; 27 pieces of live ammunition for 9mm; one piece holster ; one unit colt MK IV cal. 45 pistol; one piece magazine assembly for Cal 45 pistol, two units magazine assembly for 9mm KG9, one piece sack ; and clothing.

More than seven months after its deployment to the Western Mindanao Command Joint Area of Operations, the MBLT-6 as the 2nd Marine Amphibious Ready Unit of the Philippine Marine Corps has proven itself as a highly mobile, readily deployable, task-oriented Marine unit with combat support and service support elements that can sustain its operations ashore and project its combat power to an offshore island, capable to operate, support, and sustain itself in a hostile operating environment in the conduct of amphibious operations to address threats and disaster emergencies that are national in scope and within the context of joint operations to contribute to the accomplishment of PMC's mission



WESMINCOM Commander LEADS FLAG RAISING in the Remotest **ISLAND OF TAWI-TAWI**

Major General Steve D. Crespillo PA, Commander of the Western Mindanao Command, led the inauguration of the newly constructed flagpole and flag raising in Panggungan Island on September 28, 2023. Panggungan Island, also known as Malamanok in Sama-Bajau, is the remotest island of Tawi-Tawi.

The visit of CWMC was an opportunity to ensure the morale and welfare of personnel deployed in the area. MGen Crespillo talked to the troops, participated in the coconut planting activity, and distributed care packages.

The Commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade (2MBde), Brigadier General Romeo T. Racadio PN(M), with the support from the Western Mindanao Command, provincial government, and Sitangkai local government, initiated the construction of the sovereignty marker and flagpole to promote the country's sovereign rights and as a symbol of the government's commitment to serving fellow Filipinos in Tawi-Tawi no matter how far.

The marker and flagpole were constructed by members of the Philippine Navy Construction Brigade; Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 headed by Lieutenant Colonel Junnibert S. Tubo PN(M), Commanding Officer; and Hon. Julhaber Abdulla from the local government of Sitangkai.

HOPE, PEACE, AND SECURITY BLOOM IN THE CITY OF FLOWERS

MBLT-11 SERVES ZAMBOANGA CITY DURING TIMES OF CALAMITY AND REVELRY Sgt Cherry Mae M Perez PN(M)

With the ever-evolving threats and dynamic security challenges, the unwavering commitment of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-11 (MBLT-11) to safeguard its area of operations, stands as a testament to Team Matatag's steadfast and faithful dedication to duty.

The Zamboanga City-based MBLT-11 continues to keep a watchful eye over this "City of Flowers." Not only is it culturally

diverse and rich in history, it is one of the most important and busiest port cities of the entire Philippine archipelago. Hence, its safety and security is paramount.

And MBLT-11, led by Lieutenant Colonel Clifford Nickanor P Basco PN(M) did not disappoint in times the city needed them most. Team Matatag gave hope to residents affected by the Zamboanga City flood crisis of September this year. Approximately 2,000

individuals from Brgy. Guiwan, Brgy. Tumaga, Brgy. Santa Maria, and Brgy. Tubungan were safely evacuated from the raging floods brought by heavy rainfall. MBLT-11 worked tirelessly with counterparts from the Zamboanga City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Bureau of Fire Protection, and respective Barangay Local Government Units, who all braved the rising waters to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations.

Team Matatag, in close coordination



with counterparts, conducted various security operations in support to securing the Zamboanga City Hermosa Festival. The unit further intensified its efforts to ensure the success of the most awaited Feast Day of Nuestra Senora Virgen Del Pilar, the Patron Saint of Zamboanga City. Marked by a grand procession, followed by a Pontifical mass at the Fort Pilar Shrine, and capped with festivities, the celebration attracts thousands of residents and tourists alike. Hence, MBLT-11 remained most-ready to ensure that routes,

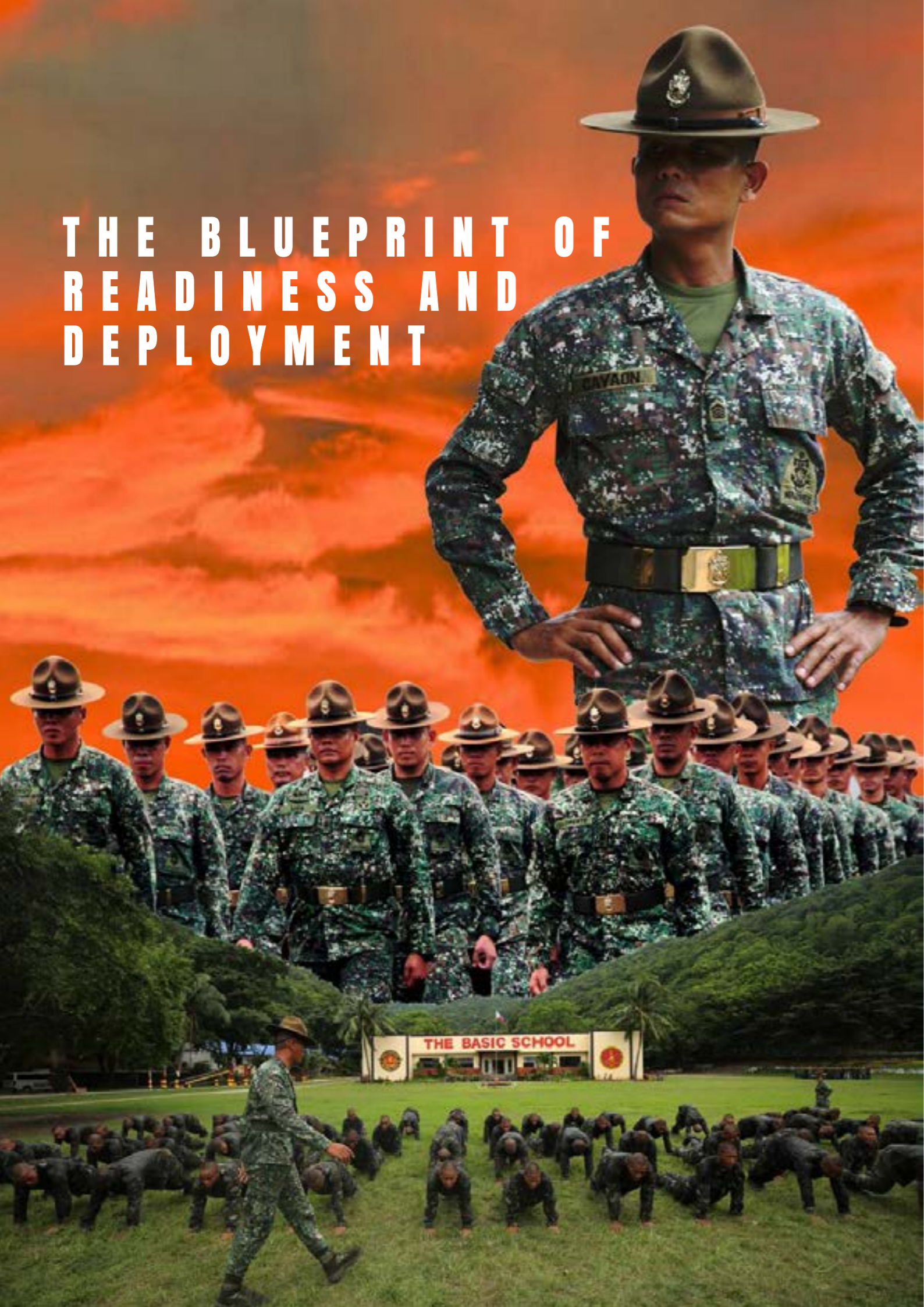
areas of convergence, and places of revelry were safe and secure.

MBLT-11's readiness to serve transcends physical preparedness. They place paramount importance on leadership, discipline, and teamwork, the bedrock of successful military operations. To remain responsive, they utilize capacity building measures through their active participation in joint exercises with other government agencies and international counterparts. These exercises foster not only growth, but also promote collaboration and cooperation.

As the Philippine Marine Corps celebrates its 73rd birthday, MBLT-11 reaffirms its commitment to be the most ready battalion, to ensure that the unit's area of operations remains secure and peaceful. Team Matatag stands in solidarity with the PMC as the country's beacon of strength in the defense of our maritime nation.



THE BLUEPRINT OF READINESS AND DEPLOYMENT



UNLEASHING THE POWER OF THE MORTAR COMPANY

56MC WEAPONS COMPANY

As part of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-6's (MBLT-6) efforts to align with the Philippine Marine Corps' (PMC) vision, the 56th Marine Company (56MC), MBLT-6 conducted Weapons Company Refresher Training at LTP Building, Brgy. Cabatangan, Zamboanga City. The training focused on further developing individual and team performance mainly in operating the M2 .50 Cal. machine gun, M2A1 81mm mortar, and EXPAL 81mm mortar (Techfire) in order to enhance their skill in providing timely and accurate direct fire support.

The training ensures the operational readiness of the Weapons Company as it supports the MBLT-6 in the accomplishment of its mission. In the dynamic realm of modern warfare, specialized units play a crucial role in achieving success in the battlefield. As a Mortar Company, the 56MC is not just a force multiplier, but is also a force to reckon with as it provides invaluable fire support to the ground forces. This company has peculiar functions, capabilities, and significance in military operations. It is responsible for delivering accurate and indirect fire support to friendly units engaged in combat and has the ability to fire high-angle projectile over considerable distances. Mortars help bridge the gap between close quarter combat and artillery support. Their versatility allows Marine forces to engage both stationary and moving targets effectively.

Moreover, the 56MC underwent rigorous training to develop their skills in calculating accurate firing solution by utilizing various sighting systems, range finders, and other technological advancements. This capability allows effective engagement while minimizing the risk to friendly forces.

The Mortar Company's effectiveness lies not only in its seamless integration with other units but also by working closely with forward observers, intelligence teams, and infantry units. Mortar company troops enhance situational awareness and enable precision strikes against targets. This collaboration improves the overall effectiveness of our forces and increases our operational capabilities. Indeed, these factors will boost the 56MC's adeptness in unleashing and delivering devastating firepower against the enemy while safeguarding the lives of friendly forces. The dedication of the 56MC, as well as the whole MBLT6 to inculcate a culture of excellence ensures that Marine forces are "most ready, always forward in the defense and security of our maritime nation."

FROM DOWN UNDER

STRONGER DEFENSE COOPERATION

1ST MARINE AMPHIBIOUS READY UNIT
CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISE
WITH AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE FORCE

Cpl Jolly T Mateo Jr PN(M)

The inaugural Exercise Alon held on August 14, 2023, at the Western Command, Puerto Prinsesa in Palawan, marked the first-ever bilateral amphibious exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Australian Defence Force (ADF). The Philippine Marine Corps was proudly represented in this historic event by the Marine Battalion Landing Team-9 (MARU) which returned to Palawan after 15 years

of operating in Tawi-Tawi, Bataan, and Zambales.

The joint exercise is part of Australia's Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) activity for the year 2023. The IPE is their international engagement initiative to promote security, stability, and stronger partnership in the Southeast Asian and Indian Ocean Region.

As a marine amphibious ready force of the Philippine Marine Corps, the Marine Battalion

Landing Team-9 (MARU) took the opportunity to enhance their skills and effectiveness in accomplishing the unit's mission by participating in exercises involving partner nations. The Marine Battalion Landing Team-9 (MARU) and the Australian Defense Force (ADF) conducted various training activities which included joint patrols, amphibious assaults, and live-fire exercises. These activities allowed both forces to test their capabilities, exchange



best practices, and improve their operational readiness.

The joint exercise also fostered cultural understanding between the two nations and further enhanced knowledge and appreciation of their respective military doctrines and practices.

The collaboration and cooperation of all participants during the joint exercise bolstered the camaraderie of both forces. The conduct, discipline, and dedication exhibited by the personnel involved, stand as a testament to the professionalism, skill and expertise of both the Marine Battalion Landing Team-9 (MARU) and the Australian Defense Force (ADF).

With the conclusion of ALON 2023 the Philippine Marine Corps' Marine Battalion Landing Team-9 (MARU) not only marked a

major milestone in its unit history, but also raised its operational efficiency to provide safety, security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and response to the people of Palawan.

This first-ever bilateral amphibious exercise is also part of Australia's Enhanced Defence Cooperation Program (E-DCP) that focuses on maritime security and counter-terrorism, among others. A Joint Australian Training Team-Philippines (JATT-P) was established under the E-DCP with the aim of conducting a range of training engagement with the AFP.

Indeed, Exercise Alon 2023 is a testament to the enduring cooperation between the Philippines and Australia. Through such collaborative efforts, both nations enhance their capabilities and ensure the security and stability of the region.





MAKING WAVES

MARINES TRAIN IN DARWIN, AUSTRALIA
FOR EXERCISE ALON 2023



C Centino, PA, the then Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines articulated the desire to make exercise "Alon" as a joint and combined exercise between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Australian Defence Force. Thus, participation of the Philippine Army and Philippine Air Force were added.

On August 9, 2023, 95 participants from the Philippine Marine Corps underwent various trainings in Darwin, Australia such as Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET), Marksmanship/ Live Firing Training, and MV22 (Osprey) Familiarization together with the Australian Defence Force from August 10-14, 2023.

The conduct of trainings with the Australian Defence Force such as the HUET capacitates Marines especially in water survival should there be any untoward incident while utilizing air assets during operations.

After the 5-day training in Darwin, the Marines went back to the Philippines aboard His Majesty Australian Ship (HMAS) Canberra. During the voyage home, exercises such as Military Urban Operation Training (MOUT), Close Quarter Combat, and Virtual Reality Training continued aboard the ship in preparation for the conduct of Air Assault in Palawan and subsequent Amphibious Assault exercises in Zambales.

These exercises have truly enriched and further capacitated PMC forces. The exchange has likewise enhanced interoperability and understanding of each other's Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), and served as a good venue to learn best practices especially in the conduct of amphibious operations.



Cpl Mary Joy M Hayahay PN(M)

As part of the Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE), Marines flew to Darwin, Australia to train alongside counterparts from the Australian Defence Force. The IPE is Australia's flagship international engagement activity in the Southeast Asian and Indian Ocean region which began in 2017. It aims to promote security, stability, and stronger partnerships in the Indo-Pacific Region through bilateral and multilateral engagement training, capacity building, and humanitarian efforts. Initially, this exercise was designed for the Philippine Navy, particularly for the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) for it is focused on Amphibious Operations. As a matter of fact, this exercise was conceived as the PMC-ADF Cooperative Serial, and no less than the Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, Major General Arturo G Rojas PN(M) named it "Alon," or wave in English. It is defined as "a long body of water curling into an arched form and breaking on the shore." The term "waves" is coined to emphasize the characteristics of amphibious warfare, as a type of offensive military operation that uses naval ships to project ground and air power unto a hostile or potentially hostile shore at a designated landing beach.

However, on May 5, 2023, General Andres



DAUNTLESS AND UNFAZED

Most Ready and Forward to Tomorrow's Challenges

2LT Anna Pamela D Balo PN(M)

The Philippine Marine Corps traces its roots to the late 1950s, through Armed Forces of the Philippines General Orders 319, which established the 1st Marine Battalion as a unit of the Philippine Naval Patrol. Initially, the 1st Marine Battalion was composed of brave volunteers, which paved the way for the birth of an organization that is rooted in volunteerism and warrior spirit. From this point onward, the Philippine Marine Corps undergoes subsequent changes that eventually lead to what it has currently and proudly become. Today, the Philippine Marine Corps stands on the ready, more than ever, as it transitions from internal security operations—fighting insurgents and terrorists—to territorial defense. Consequently, this transition marked the pivot of the Corps; activating and reorganizing all aspects of the organization as it recognized its vital role in territorial defense vis-a-vis the current geopolitical

developments between the world's hegemons.

With change being the only constant thing in this world, the Corps goes back to its foundations to effect change by intercalating new and relevant trainings that would capacitate Marines with the essential skills and knowledge necessary to accomplish the PMC's mission. Moreover, as amphibious warfare opens the opportunity for the Armed Forces of the Philippines to become more flexible and mobile, the Marine Corps enhances its own flexibility by considering the best practices of partners and international counterparts; through the conduct of combined exercises; and by availing international schoolings.

The Basic School (TBS), which serves as the primordial source of all Marines, currently trains its new and young officers through the Marine Officer Basic Course



46 (MOBC 46). The Basic School, as part of the Marine Corps Force Development Centre (MCFDC), has also embraced changes that facilitated the establishment of its current MOBC directorates to be new graduates of foreign schoolings. With its course director being 1ST Lieutenant Jaywardene Hontoria PN(M), a graduate of the All Corps Captain Course in Australia, and its Assistant Course Director, 2ND Lieutenant Justine Moriles PN(M), a graduate of the US Marine Officer Basic Course, is a clear manifestation of the PMC setting the bar higher to produce agile, adaptive, and resilient roster of personnel.

Currently, the corps trains its young blood to become more readily capable of conducting amphibious operations. Two months through and four months to go, the MOBC 46 has undergone an integrated training and education program that include different doctrines and additional water phases necessary to produce young officers who highly capable of territorial defense. In its doctrines, the school creates a hybrid of instruction that incorporates both traditional and conventional doctrines with the help of combined concepts from Australia's Land Warfare Centre, which further accentuates our landward maneuvers, and the US Marine

Corps, which enhances our concept of amphibious operations. This allows the school to produce officers that are deployable both in landward and seaward operations, thus contributing to the pursuit of becoming the most-ready unit.

Additionally, in its training, the MOBC 46 has already started its water phase evolution. Starting from basic water breath hold, treading, 200m swim and 20m underwater swim, the course has also integrated the conduct of several water trainings such as tactical night swim (1200m) where students were taught how to navigate and swim through

the dark without breaking formation and maintaining tactical distance; drownproofing where students have their hands and feet tied and is trained to execute a survival swim towards the shore; ditch and donning where students were trained to throw their equipment - weighted suspender tied with M16 rifle - in the water (ditching) and to dive in and wear their equipment underwater (donning) before resurfacing; full combat swim where students were taught to swim with their rifles in assimilating insertion from the water as well as developing a skill in survival swimming; and lastly, tactical small boat operations where students were taught how to conduct tactical operations using our small boat assets which are essential parts of amphibious operations. These trainings pave the way to building marine officers who are adept and equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills founded on readiness.

These initiatives, both in doctrines and trainings that are emplaced at an early stage, provide a corollary of a better-developed and more relevant breed of Marine officers. As such, the Marine Corps continues to improve itself as the standard of readiness and deployment towards the pursuit of upholding our maritime sovereignty.



PEACE SPOILERS BEWARE

Always on the ready, the 1st Marine Brigade carries out Marine Squad Rocket Launcher Light (SRLL) Interoperability Training
CPT JAN MARC R ROJAS PN(M)

With the 1st Marine Brigade standing watch over strategic areas of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), which includes Cotabato City, the seat of the Bangsamoro Government Center, it has remained steadfast in the performance of its mandate to uphold the primacy of peace.

Living up to their moniker “Laging Handa,” the 1st Marine Brigade has sustained its operational readiness and continues to capacitate its forces through the conduct of various training programs. With the objective of combating peace spoilers within their area of operations, it recently carried out an intensive two-day Interoperability Training program for its Marine personnel at Camp Paulino Santos Firing Range, Brgy. Dado, Alamada, North Cotabato on June 8-9, 2023.

BEYOND ENHANCING INDIVIDUAL SKILLS

Objective of the Interoperability Training

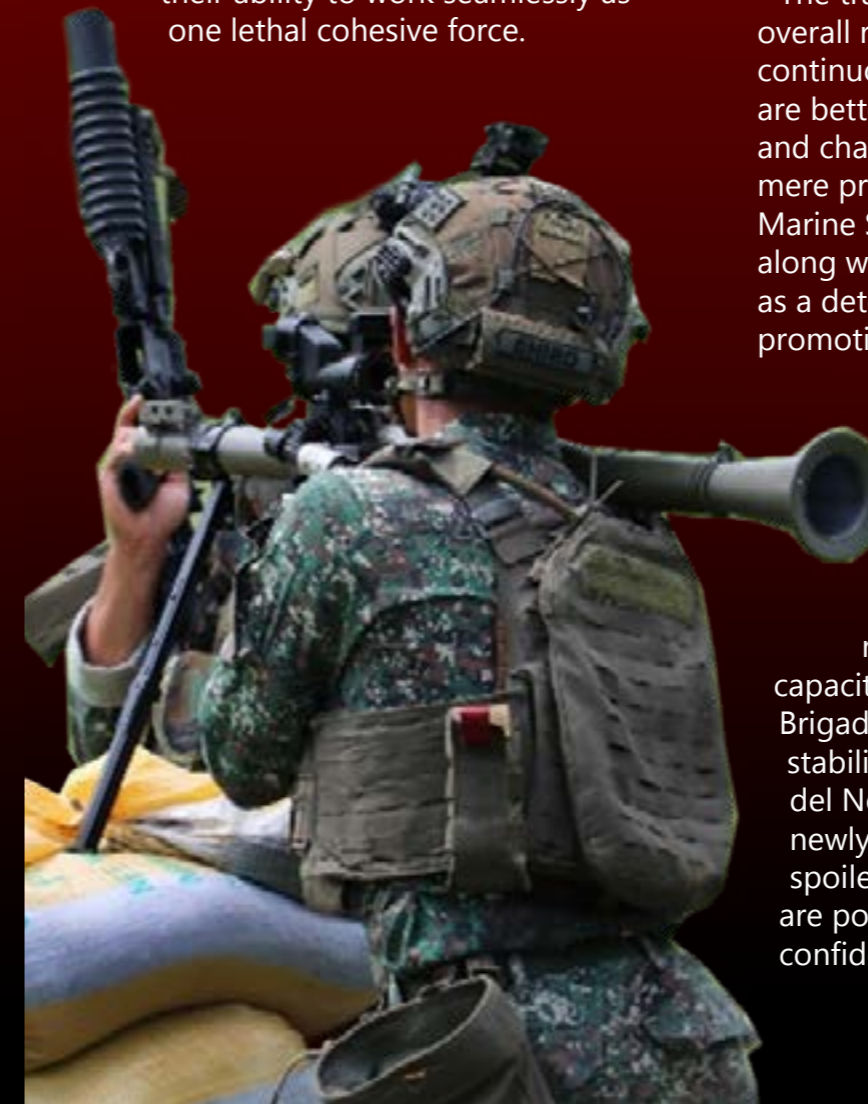
The training focused on honing the skills and coordination of the Marine Squad Rocket Launcher Light (SRLL) units as well as other operating units of the brigade to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. The exercises aimed to equip the Marine personnel with the capability, knowledge, and coordination required to neutralize threats. But beyond enhancing individual skills, learning to complement each other’s strength through the synergy of their efforts, gives the 1st Marine Brigade the edge in maintaining peace and stability in their operational areas.

LETHAL SYNERGISM

Significance of the Interoperability Training

The Philippine Marines has always been known for the hard-hitting lethality of its combined arms capability. Hence, to remain sharp, the consistent conduct of Interoperability Training is imperative to provide the following:

- **Enhanced Tactical Proficiency** – By honing their shooting accuracy, situational awareness, and decision-making capabilities, the Marine Squad Rocket Launcher Light units and the other maneuver units learn to maximize their efficiency and ensure their readiness to effectively respond to any potential threat.
- **Seamless Inter-Unit Coordination** - Interoperability among different units is crucial to the success of any military operation. The training fosters better coordination and communication between the maneuver units and other supporting units of the 1st Marine Brigade. By conducting joint exercises and simulations, they were able to enhance their ability to work seamlessly as one lethal cohesive force.



- **Improved Weapon Systems Familiarization** - Interoperability Training provides an opportunity for the Marine personnel to become more familiar with the Rocket Launcher Light system. By mastering the operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the equipment, the Marines can utilize the SRLL effectively in combat situations, ensuring the highest level of firepower when countering peace spoilers.
- **Heightened Situational Awareness** - Peace spoilers often exploit vulnerabilities in the operational environment. The training emphasizes the importance of situational awareness, enabling Marines to proactively identify potential threats and respond accordingly. By understanding the dynamics of their operational areas and conducting realistic scenario-based exercises, the Marine personnel can anticipate challenges and adapt their strategies accordingly.
- **Enhanced Readiness and Deterrence** - The training significantly contributes to the overall readiness of the 1st Marine Brigade. By continuously honing their skills, the Marines are better prepared to face emerging threats and challenges in their area of operations. The mere presence of a well-trained and equipped Marine Squad Rocket Launcher Light unit, along with other maneuver units also serves as a deterrent to potential peace spoilers, promoting a secure and stable environment.

By enhancing tactical proficiency, strengthening inter-unit coordination, improving weapon systems familiarization, heightening situational awareness, and fostering readiness, the Interoperability Training capacitates and empowers the 1st Marine Brigade to sustain the peace and provide stability in the province of Maguindanao del Norte and Cotabato City. With these newly acquired skills and knowledge, peace spoilers beware, for the Marine personnel are poised to face future challenges with confidence and resilience.

FROM DOWN SOUTH AND INTO THE NORTH

THE 4TH MARINE BRIGADE FINDS A NEW HOME IN NOLCOM



The attainment of peace in the Sulu Island Province highlights the 4th Marine "Makusug" Marine Brigade's crucial role in neutralizing hybrid threats for the past six years since its designation as the "Philippine Marine Ready Force (PMRF)-Sulu."

Despite being the youngest brigade of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), the 4th Marine Brigade was instrumental in the transformation of Sulu from being once tagged as a haven of terrorists, into a province that is on its way to economic development.

With threats now hounding the country's maritime zones in the north, higher headquarters redeployed the 4th Marine Brigade to keep watch over the nation's northern frontier.

Upon arrival at its new area of operations, the 4th Marine Brigade leadership expeditiously prepositioned its operating forces in strategic locations, building on its 3DR concept of "Defend, Deny, Disrupt, and Recover," in line with the PMC's Archipelagic Defense Concept (ADC), and in keeping with the Northern Luzon Command's (NOLCOM) transition to a Territorial Defense Command. The 4th



Marine Brigade takes pride in being part of this pivotal strategic undertaking, as it enhances jointness and interoperability with the other Major Services, and pertinent government agencies and stakeholders

To ensure optimum operational readiness, the 4th Marine Brigade conducted unilateral exercises ("IRUGI" and "MAIKADUA") from the Brigade level, down to the Fire-Teams. Crucial to this exercise is the individual Marine competency; the capacity to adapt to an evolving security environment, and fast-changing warfare technology to internalize the 3DR concept in defense of the Northern Frontier. In addition, International Defense and Security Engagements such as the "BALIKATAN," Marine Air Support Activity (MASA), and "KAMANDAG" with the US Armed Forces and observers from allied countries such as Australia, Japan, United Kingdom, and South Korea further enhance the unit's interoperability with other forces. They also pave the way for the review and assessment of TTPs; exposure to modern technologies; the ability to incorporate current and future systems; and for facilities development.

Beyond the 4th Marine Brigade's role as Defenders of the North, they have been proactive in sustaining the cleared areas formerly influenced by the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG), by supporting Internal Security Operations (ISOs). They also play a Constabulary role in support of law enforcement operations (SLEOs) of the PNP; VIP Protection and Security Operations (VIPPSOs), and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Operations (HADROS). The 4th Marine Brigade likewise utilizes a public centric approach to further enhance the unit's community relations.

In its new home in the north, the 4th Marine Brigade is resolute in being a unit that is most ready, always forward in the defense and security of our maritime nation.

ENTER THE BRAVE

The Basic School
2LT KARL KILLI O TAULI



Nestled amidst lush jungles and white beaches, The Basic School (TBS), the very birthplace of every Marine, stands as the gateway to the standard of soldiery that is in a class all its own.

The TBS is where ordinary Filipino citizens imbued with extraordinary love for country and people, are transformed into the nation's best and fiercest amphibious warriors. It is here where every recruit undergoes a transformative journey that molds them into some of the most formidable soldiers in the Philippines.

Before becoming a Philippine Marine, recruits must endure a rigorous

selection process that includes physical fitness tests (PFTs), medical evaluations, and psychological assessments. Only those who meet the criteria will be able to proceed to The Basic School.

Basic Training in the PMC is known as the "Marine Basic Course" where candidate soldiers would participate in an arduous 6-month program designed to instill discipline, physical and mental fortitude, and the PMC's brand of esprit de corps. Candidate soldiers endure grueling exercises, traverse challenging obstacle courses, and combat drills, all under the watchful eye of drill instructors who exemplify the best in Philippine soldiery.

Officers on the other hand take "Marine Officer Basic Course". Officers would learn the fundamentals of being a Marine officer in order to lead efficiently and effectively. As future leaders of the Philippine Marine Corps, they are given various tasks that would prepare them to function as decisive leaders of the organization.

Being a Philippine Marine is not for the fainthearted. The transformation process not only tests one's limits, but makes one discover his or her own strengths hidden within. Marines are the embodiment of valor, discipline, and honor; and the road to greatness begins at the gates of The Basic School. Enter the brave!



**MOST
READY
TO RESPOND**
MARINES UNDERGO
WATER SEARCH AND
RESCUE TRAINING

Responders and rescuers from different offices of the Combat Support Group, Philippine Marine Corps completed a five-day Water Search and Rescue (WASAR) training held from August 22 to 26, 2023.

The WASAR was spearheaded by the Zamboanga City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (ZCDRRMO), in partnership with the Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao (CGDSWM). The activity was part of the continuing efforts of the Philippine Marine Corps' Combat Support Brigade to organize, capacitate, and operationalize active rescue units particularly in the city that could be readily deployed and respond to emergency situations.

Participants included personnel of the Combat Support Brigade, Assault Armor Battalion, Marine Corps Assault Boat Battalion, Field Artillery Battalion, and the Service Support Battalion. The WASAR lecture regarding water safety, survival and rescue was held at the Headquarters Combat Support Brigade (HCSB) Multipurpose Hall, while the simulation and practical exercises were held at the Headquarters Marine Corps Assault Boat Battalion (HMCABBN), Naval Station Romulo Espaldon (NSRE), Bagong Calarian, Zamboanga City and at the HMCABBN, Beach area, NSRE, Bagong Calarian, Zamboanga City.

This Water Search and Rescue Training was conceptualized to capacitate the Philippine Marine Corps-CSB units with life-saving techniques and strategies to face waterborne emergencies. Furthermore, the ZCDRRM Council and Philippine Marine Corps aims to institutionalize emergency response teams to respond to disaster-related emergencies.

“Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of our Maritime Nation.”

In the history of the Marine Battalion Landing Team -6 (MBLT-6), the reactivation of the Special Operations Platoon (SOP) marks the return of the storied “Voyager” SOP. Theirs is an extraordinary story of determination that stands testament to the Philippine Marines’ adaptability and steadfast dedication to duty.

Voyager’s Legacy

The Voyager made a lasting mark with its courageous service rendered in the past. The platoon had once led daring missions and figured in encounters that challenged and placed its personnel to the toughest test. An ambush incident made higher headquarters decide to deactivate the unit. Yet the legacy of the Voyager remains undiminished; a legacy of bravery, camaraderie, and unwavering dedication. Today, members of the platoon, both past and present, still carry that sense of duty and unity that has been the hallmark of the platoon.

Process of Reactivation

Several essential elements were carefully considered for the reactivation of the Voyager:

- **Personnel Selection** – The battalion organized a board of key leaders and personnel who conducted a stringent selection procedure to fill up the Voyager with the right candidates.
- **Training and Readiness** - The personnel that were selected underwent Special Operations Training to refresh their warfighting skills and to learn other tactics, techniques, and procedures relevant to the nature of SOP operations.
- **Logistics** - The newly assigned personnel of Voyager was provided with military equipment, gears, and kits, ensuring preparedness to face tough the challenges and difficulties ahead.

Service Awaits

The Voyager is ready to take on new missions, standing on the shoulders of their gallant predecessors. Breathing life into the unit are fresh personnel armed not just with the knowledge and skills relevant and responsive to the challenges of the times, but also with the timeless values of the Philippine Marine Corps’ Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan.

The Voyager’s story embodies the enduring essence of military service, a narrative of rebirth, renewal, hope, and determination. As it embarks on its journey with a fresh new mandate, they carry the legacy of past achievements and the promise of a bright future. The Voyager reminds us that in the face of challenges and changes, the Marine Corps will always stand united, committed, and MOST READY to uphold our nation’s security.



STRATEGIC SYNERGY



MBLT-12 JOINS KAMAHARDIKAAN SIN TAWI-TAWI 2023

2LT RONNIELLY SONJA D SEÑORA PN(M)

Tawi-Tawi is considered as the gateway of Islam into our archipelago, long before the Philippines became Asia's first republic. According to history, Islam was first introduced in this province and is the home of Sheik Makhdum Mosque, the oldest Masjid in the country which was established in the year 1380 in Brgy. Tubig Indanan, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi.

The province is demographically diverse, composed of different ethnic groups like Sama, Tausug and Badjao that greatly relies on the sea for livelihood through fishing, seaweed farming, and dried fish production. Given the rise of technology in this digital age, Tawi-Tawi has preserved its culture and traditions which serve as one of its greatest

tourism assets. As a way of showcasing this, the province annually celebrates Kamahardikaan Sin Tawi-Tawi.

Kamahardikaan is a local term for "freedom" and they celebrate this to commemorate their independence and separation from Sulu Province on September 27, 1973. With the theme, "**Tawi-Tawi to the World: Bangsa, Hulah, Agama,**" this year's 50th anniversary celebration highlighted their vibrant traditions and remarkable half-century of progress, which is marked by the unity of Tawi-Tawi's people. The event was held in the Municipality of Bongao and was participated by almost all municipalities of the province from north to south.

As part of the socio-economic development initiatives of Marine

Battalion Landing Team - 12 led by LTCOL JUNNIBERT S TUBO PN(M), this unit actively participated in various sports and cultural activities. This engagement promotes fellowship and strengthens the ties with Local Government Units and stakeholders for the betterment of the province. As one of the defenders of peace and security in the southernmost frontier of our country, MBLT-12 ensured the safety and security of the month-long celebration through proper coordination with pertinent agencies and provided security personnel in different venues for the successful conduct of various events and programs. This support is a clear manifestation of MBLT-12's dedication to helping maintain peace and order, and a tribute to the province's cultural legacy. The MBLT-12 will remain faithfully committed to their duty as the gatekeepers and guardians of the south.

NO TERRITORY TOO FAR

Bridging Services, Defending Our Nation

2LT KHIM LIMUEL A TAMACA PN(M)

Tawi-Tawi province is known as the country's seaweed capital and is home to some of the most scenic places and breathtaking beaches in the whole archipelago. Located in the southernmost frontier of the Philippines, Tawi-Tawi is a tourism gem yet to be fully discovered, and for many years, the province has remained relatively peaceful and has been a supportive peace partner of the government.

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 (MBLT-12) is one of the operating units in the province under the 2nd Marine Brigade that aims to protect, defend, and address peace and security issues of the six island municipalities of the 1st District (Bongao, Simunul, Sibutu, Sitangkai, Turtle Islands, and Mapun). Since the province is composed of several islands and islets vastly stretched out in the far extent of the country borders, several communities located in these far-flung areas have limited access or is seldom visited and chosen to be a recipient of outreach programs due to limited water assets. MBLT-12, in collaboration and cooperation with the Local Government Units (LGUs), agencies and partners/stakeholders developed a Stakeholders' Convergence (Serbisyo Caravan) program which aims to deliver basic services, relief goods and



other items to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) of the province.

Generally, the concept of the caravan is to organize various stakeholders from different government agencies and the private sector and consolidate available goods and services which will be delivered to the chosen community located in remote areas. Medical and dental consultations (including distribution of medicine); distribution of relief goods, school supplies, slippers, hygiene kits, toys; free circumcision; haircut services; food feeding and entertainment with mascot and magic presentations are part of the package of the said activity, among others.

On July 31, 2023, a Stakeholder's Convergence event was held in Brgy. Poblacion, Bakkungan Island, Turtle Island, Tawi-Tawi which is one of the closest islands to the Malaysian border. No less than the Western Mindanao Command, headed by its Commander, Lieutenant General Roy M Galido PA, took part in the pre-celebration activities of its 17th Founding Anniversary. The activity not only delivered support goods and services to this isolated area, it was also a clear manifestation of our commitment to serving the Filipino people even in the farthest reaches of our archipelago, that no area or territory is too far for our Philippine Marines to uphold our sovereignty.



Harnessing the *Power* of *Mangroves* for a Sustainable Future

Pvt Julius S Gormate PN(M)

The escalating climate crisis necessitates unwavering commitment to harness change, collective action, and innovative solutions for a more sustainable tomorrow.

In mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, we have discovered a multitude of sustainable solutions. Among these, one natural hero has emerged from the shorelines: mangroves. These trees that thrive at the intersection of land and sea, play a very critical role in environmental protection. Mangroves have the exceptional ability to sequester carbon, shield coastal areas, and nurture biodiversity.

Recently, the 50th Marine Company of Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 (MBLT-10) was invited to participate in the celebration of the 60th Fish Conservation Week spearheaded by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Santa Ana, Cagayan. The event kicked off on September 11, 2023, with the theme "Masaganang Pangisdaan, Maunlad na Ekonomiya" (Bountiful Fisheries, Progressive Economy). The event took place in Brgy. San Vicente, Santa Ana, Cagayan, with the aim of highlighting the critical role mangroves play

in sustaining a vibrant fishing industry and driving economic growth.

The ecological significance of mangroves is truly remarkable. They serve as home to vibrant ecosystems that foster biodiversity, serving as a critical habitat for diverse marine life and countless organisms. By safeguarding and restoring mangroves, we not only enhance biodiversity but also create sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

Mangroves also form a natural defense system against storm surges. They create a protective barrier, preserving our shorelines and maintaining the integrity of coastal habitats. Hence, the 50th Marine Company encourages everyone to contribute by planting mangroves. This action embodies the unit's unwavering commitment to combating climate change and paves the way for a greener and more sustainable tomorrow, for planting mangroves is like sowing the seeds of hope for a future where we not only survive, but thrive, and where nature and humanity coexist in harmony."



BRINGING HOPE IN TIMES OF CALAMITIES

Task Group-MAKUSUG 3: MBLT-10's Pivotal Role in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response in Cagayan and Batanes"

1LT DANIELLE JEAN D TORRES PN(M)

In the wake of natural disasters, effective and timely humanitarian assistance and coordinated disaster response operations necessitates a united front involving multiple stakeholders, that include government, and non-government entities, among others, to deliver essential aid to those most affected by calamitous events such as typhoons.

Cagayan and Batanes Provinces were battered by Super Typhoon Egay (Doksuri) and Typhoon Goring (Saola) in the middle of 2023, and the Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 (MBLT-10) proved to be a force the people can rely upon when the unit promptly deployed its personnel to provide immediate assistance. Leveraging the unit's specialized disaster response training, the MBLT-10 proved to be

adaptive and effective in managing difficult circumstances; and displayed unwavering commitment to saving lives and mitigated the sufferings of the victims of calamities.

Beyond immediate life-saving efforts, MBLT-10 played an indispensable role in delivering basic services to the affected communities. The unit recognized the importance of urgent relief, and promptly coordinated with government bodies to distribute essential supplies such as food, water, and medical aid. These provisions significantly contributed to stabilizing the affected regions, by giving a sense of hope and initiating recovery.

Moreover, MBLT-10 participated in the evacuation of individuals from high-risk areas, which is one of the most critical aspects of disaster risk operations. The unit's efforts entailed meticulous planning, seamless coordination, and implementation of evacuation protocols, culminating in the effective relocation of vulnerable individuals to safer grounds.

The MBLT-10 mobilized critical military resources, including rubber boats and military trucks to flood-affected areas. These assets ensured the safe transportation of people to secure locations and were utilized by trained personnel for the efficient conduct of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Operations.

Indeed, the MBLT-10 has set the bar high for disaster response operations with their preparedness, efficient and effective coordination, and selfless service in times of adversity. Their efforts bring hope and serve as a testament to their unwavering commitment to their mission.



OPTIMIZING MILITARY PERFORMANCE



BEYOND TRADITIONAL TRAINING REGIMES

The 3rd Marine Brigade's Commitment to Peak Military Performance



In the relentless pursuit of maintaining peak military performance, the 3rd Marine Brigade has embraced a holistic approach that goes beyond traditional training regimes. Through the incorporation of regular calisthenics, biking, and swimming activities into their weekly routine, the brigade has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring their proficiency in the field.

The Foundation of Strength and Discipline

Twice a week, every member of the 3rd Marine Brigade gathers for a rigorous session of calisthenics. These sessions are not just about building physical strength; they are about fostering discipline, teamwork, and mental resilience. Calisthenics include push-ups, sit-ups, squats, and other bodyweight exercises as well as road run that help maintain the essential strength required in combat situations. The importance of calisthenics cannot be

overstated. They not only help to keep the Marines physically fit but also serve as a means to reinforce their commitment to the principles of self-discipline and self-improvement. The shared experience of pushing through the physical challenges together builds camaraderie and trust among the unit members.

Mobility and Endurance

In addition to calisthenics, biking has become a cornerstone of the 3rd Marine Brigade's training regimen. Three times a week, Marines take to the rugged terrain surrounding their area of operations, navigating roads with their trusty bicycles. Biking not only provides a change of pace but also enhances mobility and endurance.

The advantages of incorporating biking into their routine are multifaceted. It helps Marines adapt to different terrains, increases cardiovascular fitness, and builds mental resilience as they face the demands of long rides through diverse landscapes.

Furthermore, biking is an eco-friendly mode of transportation that aligns with the brigade's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Waterborne Proficiency

Every Thursday, members of the 3rd Marine Brigade dive into the pool for swimming activities. Proficiency in waterborne operations is a vital skill for any military unit, and the brigade recognizes this by dedicating a day to aquatics training. Swimming is more than just a fitness activity; it's a crucial aspect of their readiness.

Swimming activities range from basic strokes to advanced water survival techniques. These sessions not only improve the Marines' swimming skills but also instill confidence in the water. In a world where military operations can take place in various environments, including aquatic ones, such proficiency is invaluable.

Holistic Approach

The 3rd Marine Brigade's commitment to maintaining maximum military performance through regular calisthenics, biking, road run and swimming activities is a testament to their dedication to excellence. It goes beyond the physical aspects of training; it encompasses mental resilience, teamwork, and adaptability.

In a world where military challenges are ever-evolving, these activities prepare the brigade for the unexpected. They ensure that the Marines are not only physically fit but also mentally prepared to face the uncertainties of the field. By embracing this holistic approach, the 3rd Marine Brigade sets a remarkable example for other units, showing that true military proficiency requires a multifaceted commitment to continuous improvement.



TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS

DISTINGUISHED AWARDEE FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

SSgt Michael S Rayanon PN(M)

Congratulations, Sarge!

The Philippine Marine Corps is proud of you.



EPITOMIZING THE PMC'S BRAND OF KARANGALAN, KATUNGKULAN, KABAYANIHAN

MANILA TIMES AWARD 2023 RECOGNIZES SSGT MICHAEL S RAYANON PN(M) FOR HIS REMARKABLE SERVICE

The Manila Times and The Manila Times TV, in collaboration with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), launched the inaugural "Tribute to Soldiers" awards at the Manila Hotel on August 28, 2023. The event aims to honor the sacrifice and heroism of the exemplary members of the AFP and to raise awareness about their exceptional patriotism and dedication to duty in service to the nation.

The "Tribute to Soldiers" puts the spotlight on the outstanding achievements of military units and personnel whose actions made a lasting impact on either the military organization, the communities where they serve, or both. Among the ten distinguished awardees is SSgt Michael S Rayanon PN(M) in the Outstanding Community Service Category who received the honor from

no less than Vice President Sara Duterte. SSgt Rayanon is a shining example of unwavering commitment to duty and the embodiment of a true Filipino hero.

Since August 2019, SSgt Michael S Rayanon has been an unwavering force behind the growth and triumph of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MBLT-3). As a Public Affairs NCO, he undertook a pivotal role in cultivating trust and securing support from local government units and agencies across Northern Palawan. His efforts bore fruit in the form of crucial intelligence that proved invaluable in the execution of multiple Focused Military Operations (FMOs) against the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG). Moreover, he spearheaded various community and outreach programs as part of the MBLT-3's Civil-Military Operations (CMOs) across Northern Palawan, particularly in the barangays infiltrated by the CTG. These initiatives helped bridge the gap between the military and the local population.

Remarkably, even in the face of adversity in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette's onslaught, SSgt

Michael S Rayanon's resolve remained unyielding. His determination to uplift the affected communities despite the fact that the MBLT-3 also fell victim to the typhoon's destruction, mitigated the people's suffering and helped in the delivery of relief and basic services.

His exceptional contributions played a vital role in MBLT-3's resounding success, leading to the defeat of insurgency and the declaration of Palawan as an insurgency-free province by no less than President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. on September 1, 2023. SSgt Michael S Rayanon's legacy is a testament to his unwavering commitment to both his duty and the well-being of his fellow Filipinos, making him an inspiration and a Marine worthy of emulation.

The recognition of SSgt Michael S Rayanon is a tribute not only to his individual heroism but also to the collective dedication of Filipino soldiers who serve as the guardians of our nation. SSgt Michael S Rayanon's legacy truly epitomizes the Philippine Marine Corps' brand of Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan.

Admiral's Cup Champ 4th Year in a Row

2LT SYLAS D DA-O PN(M)



Sports and the military are two distinct domains, but both are characterized by competition, strategy, and the pursuit of victory. They instill a champion's mentality that upholds excellence and fuels the hunger for success in their respective battlefield.

The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) once again proved its mettle as it dominated the Admiral's Cup 2023 for the fourth straight year; winning the overall title with a medal haul of 12 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze. The Admiral's Cup is the annual sporting event of the Philippine Navy and Marines that pits its members in various athletic competitions.

The PMC continues its winning streak, buoyed by their Marine warrior ethos that does not settle for mediocrity, promotes esprit de corps, never say die attitude, and the courage to fight even if the odds are stacked against them. As the Marine hymn goes, "...when we are provoked to fight, you'd better keep out of our sight when we unleash our strength and might."

Their goal-oriented approach was evident in their preparation for

the games. Each Marine athlete was not only competing for personal pride, but to also reap honours for the PMC. The physical and mental conditioning developed during military training became the foundation of the Marine strength, agility and stamina that proved to be in a class all its own. Likewise, the Marine's mental resiliency proved to be vital in maintaining focus, discipline, and composure.

The Marine athletes' physical and mental strength, coupled with the PMC Commanders' and coaches' game plans, strategies, and guidance combined for the Admiral's Cup to stay within the PMC's grasp.

With their motto of Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayahin, the PMC is determined to keep their winning streak both in sports and in battles.



OPERATION FROM THE MARINE FRONT

Photo: Sgt David O Balisi PN(M)



Balabac it is!

KEEPING WATCH OVER THIS HIDDEN PARADISE IN THE C O U N T R Y ' S LAST FRONTIER

2LT MARK JOEL L BUCAYU PN(M)

Have you ever been to a place so beautiful you never want to leave? Have you dreamt of lounging on pristine pink-sand beaches, see vibrantly colored corals reefs, wide range of endemic marine and wild life, jetting around to untouched islands and see the longest sandbars in the country?

BALABAC IT IS!

Often nicknamed "The Last Frontier" is a heaven on earth place located in the southwestern most point

of Palawan province in the Philippines. It is about fifty (50) kilometers close to the neighboring country of Sabah, Malaysia with over thirty-one (31) group of islands and comprises of thirty-six (36) barangays. The Municipality of Balabac is one of the Areas of Operation of Marine Battalion Landing Team-7 spearheaded by our Commanding Officer LTCOL JOHN PAUL S JACLA PN(M) in which the 37th Marine Company was tasked to secure and preserve the peace and order of

the municipality. Balabac Island is a potential tourist spot essential for boosting our economy, a strategic location for marine defense operations, and crucial site for Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) base in which MBLT-7 has a critical role as the immediate defenders of the last frontier against adversaries of the Philippines.

The municipality of Balabac is a promising spot for tourist attraction which can be described

as El Nido of the south. It's like everywhere you go, there's nothing ugly to see. Virgin beaches, long sandbars, wild life such as mouse deer commonly known as "pilandok" one can see and experience the peaceful off-the-beaten-path island paradise. The influx of tourists coming to the island means tourism is boosting thereby increasing the economy of the Philippines. Without the marines and other law enforcement agencies in Balabac, we cannot achieve these breakthroughs ensuring that tourists have a peace of mind away from enemies of the State. According to Mr. Rommel Banlaoi, a security analyst and president of the Philippine Society for Intelligence and Security Studies stated that Balabac is a strategic location for the military because of the quality of its water which can host different types of submarines that is critical for marine defense operations anywhere in the region. (Guzman, 2023)The island is only one hundred sixty (160) miles southeast of the Mischief reef which is a part of the highly contested Spratly Island group. It is one of our sea lines of communication in which the waterway hosts trillions of dollars in global trade pass through each year. With that, our Marines man different detachments in the islands of Marabon, Bancalaan, Mangsee, Bugsuk and Balabac, Narciso del Rosario Naval Station safeguarding the southwestern portion against any eventualities. And lastly, Balabac was identified as one of the "suitable and mutually beneficial" EDCA site for US troops to have access in which Filipinos and American forces can train side by side in preparation for any concerns relating to China's role in the region. The location can strengthen the interoperability of the US and Philippines which allow us to respond more seamlessly together to address a range of shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, according to the US Department of Defense. (Guzman, 2023). The members of 37th Marine Company, MBLT-7 currently operating in the municipality of Balabac is crucial to the development of these projects. These marines dedicated themselves for the service to the Filipino people and to our beloved country, Philippines.

MBLT-7: Defenders of the Last Frontier manifests that we are "Most Ready, Always Forward in the Defense and Security of our Maritime Nation". Your marines live up to the motto of the Philippine Marine Corps, "Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan".

The Marine Security and Escort Group (MSEG) is the unit of the Philippine Marine Corps tasked to provide security to government installations and VIP personages. But on top of that, the unit has also been tasked to provide honor guards to one of the country's most iconic landmarks – the Jose Rizal Monument at Luneta Park in Ermita, Manila. The monument was built in honor of the country's national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. The park itself is steeped in history as it is where Dr. Rizal was executed by the Spaniards on December 30, 1896.

Ever since the inception of the Marine Guard Battalion, the predecessor of MSEG, the personnel of the unit have been given the task of providing honor guards to the Marines, and just like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, USA, honor guards are detailed to stand guard at the Rizal monument in order to preserve its integrity. The honor guards are in charge of looking after the statue

of our national hero. They make sure that respect is accorded the hero at all times. Each honor guard has a two-hour shift wherein he stands firm at the side of Dr. Rizal's monument.

Part of the routine duties of the Marines in Luneta Park is the changing of guards. This has become one of the highlights of the park's attractions and is highly anticipated by the public. People come to the park not only to view the monument, but to watch the changing of the guards where the Marines execute a series of close order drills with rifle as another set of guards relieve the former of their duty. But once a month, the personnel of MSEG conduct a changing-of-the-guard exhibition wherein six personnel will showcase their skills in handling a rifle in front of an inspector who is also a Marine.

Aside from the changing-of-the-guard, another anticipated event in Luneta Park is the Silent Drill Exhibition

of MSEG. Once a month, starting at 4 p.m., the public is treated to a 20 minute "silent drill" at the back of the Rizal monument. A precision drill exhibition without verbal command, it shows MSEG personnel perform a series of calculated drill movements and precise handling of their hand-polished M-1 Garand rifles with nickel plated bayonets in an impressive display of skill and coordination. During the exhibition, the Marines perform normal and slow drill while drawing up various formations such as HI, ANCHOR, and the X formation while firing their rifles in between in a synchronized manner. The exhibition is a product of hard work and dedication in order to develop coordination, precision and chemistry. It takes months of grueling practice in order to give the spectators a perfect silent drill performance. The changing-of-the-guard and silent

drill exhibitions was put on hold during the pandemic, but was brought back on September 24, 2023. This was followed by MSEG personnel once again performing the crowd-favorite silent drill in front of the public at the Luneta Park on October 8, 2028, to the delight of the locals and tourists alike. Ever since the task of providing honor guards has been given to the PMC, the Marines have been performing their duties diligently while adhering to the highest standards of military discipline. There was even an anecdote written by Teodoro Valencia wherein he praised the personnel guarding the monument stating, "After Typhoon "Yoling" ravaged Manila in 1969, all the trees in Rizal Park were down, the flowers were all blown away, and the shrubs in shambles. The only structures left standing were the monument of Rizal and the two Marine Guards."



THE MARINE HONOR GUARDS

MAJ JERBER ANTHONY BELONIO PN(M)

GUARDIANS OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS LEGACY

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE OF FILIPINO HEROISM

MSgt Esau Loterte PN(M)



Since its inception on November 02, 1950, the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) has remained faithfully committed to serving the Filipino people. The legacy of the PMC is a testament to the enduring spirit of the Filipino warrior. By preserving its rich history and traditions, it will continue to shine brightly to illuminate the path for generations of Marines to follow its timeless standard of Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan.

Ensuring Heroism is Not Forgotten

The Marine Corps Historian Office stands as the guardian of an integral part of the country's history steeped with Filipino heroism that is in a class of its own --- the history of the Philippine Marine Corps. Its functions

include conducting research, crafting plans, and formulating policies related to collecting and documenting events of historical significance to ensure that every important milestone is recorded and safeguarded in honor of the members of the PMC, and to serve as inspiration for future generations.

A Living Testament

At the heart of preserving the PMC's heritage lies the Marine Corps Museum and Archives. In these hallowed halls, artifacts and stories of gallantry and valor are meticulously preserved. This museum serves as a testament and tribute to the courage and sacrifice of Marines, of their victories, challenging times, and the undying spirit to rise above any adversary.

Embracing Tradition

The PMC's commitment to preserving its heritage enhances its longstanding traditions. These traditions not only shape the identity of the PMC but also serve as a wellspring of inspiration for its members. They are reminders of the high standards set by the PMC's forefathers anchored on the finest traditions of Filipino soldiery.

When Preservation of the Past is a Pledge to the Future

Knowledge of PMC history and traditions serves as a deep pool of wisdom, hence, by preserving its rich military heritage, lessons will not be forgotten and will stand as the pillars of the organization as they continue to adapt and evolve to remain relevant and responsive to challenges, for the dedication of the Marine Corps Historian Office is not just a tribute to the past, it is also a pledge to the future.



KAILAN DAPAT MAGRETIRO SA SERBISYO MILITAR

Pagsasaliksik sa Epekto ng Panukalang MUP
MSgt Esau Loterte PN(M)

Ang pagreretiro mula sa serbisyo militar ay isang mahalagang yugto na nangangailangan ng maingat na pag-aalala at plano. Para sa maraming kasapi ng serbisyo, lalung-lalo na sa mga kapwa ko Marino, ang desisyon na magretiro ay maaaring impluwensyahan ng iba't-ibang mga kadahilanan, kabilang na ang panukalang batas ni Albay Representative Joey Salceda sa ilalim ng House Bill 8593, patungkol sa Military Uniformed Personnel (MUP). Kailan ba tliga nararapat magretiro mula sa serbisyo militar at magbibigay liwanag sa dahilan kung bakit marami sa aktibong paglilingkod, ang nagpapasyang magretiro dahil sa inaasahang epekto ng MUP law.

Kailan Dapat Magretiro

Ang desisyon kung kailan magretiro mula sa serbisyo militar ay isang personal na desisyon at maaring maka-apekto ng iba't-ibang mga salik. Mahalaga na isaalang-alang ang mga aspeto ng personal at propesyonal na buhay, kabilang ang mga responsibilidad sa pamilya, mga layunin sa karera, at pisikal na kahandaan.

1. Obligasyon sa Serbisyo:

Suriin kung ilang taon ka nang nagseserbisyo at kung natupad mo na ang iyong orihinal na obligasyon.

2. Kahandaang Pinansiyal:

Tukuyin ang iyong pinansiyal na kakayahan para sa sibilyang buhay. Siguruhing mayroon kang matibay na planong pinansyal, may sapat na ipon,

investments, at malinaw na pang-unawa ng iyong pensyon mula sa AFP.

3. Pamilya:

Mainam na ipaunawa ang epekto ng iyong pag-retiro mula sa serbisyo sa iyong pamilya. Tingnan ang kanilang mga pangangailangan at kung paano maaring makaapekto ito sa kanila.

4. Kalusugan at Kondisyon:

Maging tapat sa iyong pisikal at mental na kalusugan. Ang pagreretiro ay maaaring maging pisikal na hamon, kaya't siguruhing handa ka para sa transisyon.

5. Layunin sa Karera:

Isipin kung natutupad mo na ang mga layunin sa iyong karera at kung ano pa ang nais mong makamit sa iyong serbisyo, tulad ng gusto mo pang makuha ang isa pang ranngo at sa layuning makaabot pa ng apat na long pay (LP), haggang lima, tunay na malaki ang benepisyo ang makukuha kung aabot ng 5th LP, subalit kung masaya na sa inabot na dalawang-pung taon na serbisyo ay pwede ng magretiro.

6. Masaya ka pa ba sa Serbisyo?



Kung nasa puso pa natin at masaya pa tayo sa pagseserbisyo ay dapat lang na magpatuloy at gawing motivation lalo na ang ating pamilya. Subalit, kung napipilitan nalang na magserbisyo ay oras na para magdesisyon. Higit na kailangan ng AFP sa pangkalahatan ang nagtatrabaho ng buong puso, may dedikasyon, pangako at lalo na kung may kakayahang gampanan ang tungkulin sinumpaang.

Epekto ng panukalang MUP Law

Sa kasalukuyan, habang sinusulat ang artikulong ito ay patuloy na dinidinig ang usapin sa mababang kapulungan ng kongreso at aabot na din hanngang sa senado, at kung mangyayari, ay lalagadaan ng ating pangulo ang mga panukala sa MUP law. Sa totoo lang, ang nakakalungkot sa pagdating ng panukalang ito ay halos domoble ang mga tropang Marino at maging sa ibang branch of service ang nag file ng kanilang optional retirement. Maaring inunahan na nila at

gusto nilang matamasa ang dating mga batas na nagtatakda ng mga benepisyo na makukuha kung pagreretiro ng maaga. "Pilit na Pagreretiro"

Ang MUP law ay maaring magdulot ng pilit na paglisan dahil sa layuning masunod ang itinakda nito na antas ng mga kasapi ng aktibong serbisyo. Maaring marami sa mga Marines ang matagpuan ang kanilang sarili na kinakailangang magretiro nang mas maaga kaysa sa inaasahan.

"Pagpapalano para sa magandang Kinabukasan"

Ang pagtitiwala sa sistema ng pamahalaan ay nangangahulugan ng pagkilala na ang MUP law ay itinataguyod para sa kahandaan ng militar. Upang matagumpay na malagpasan ang mga epekto nito, dapat magplano nang maingat ang mga kasapi ng serbisyo para sa pagreretiro at siguruhing mayroon silang malinaw na landas patungo sa kanilang mga layunin sa buhay at pinansiyal na disiplina sa paghawak ng perang pinaghirapan.

Ang pagpapasya kung kailan magretiro mula sa serbisyo militar ay isang napakahalagang hakbang. Ang epekto ng MUP law ay maaring maging malaki bahagi sa desisyon na ito, ngunit sa mabusising pagpapalano at pagtitiwala sa sistema at layunin ng pamahalaan, lalo na at naniniwala tayo na hindi nila pababayaang bumaba ang ating morale, at kanilang pinapahalagahan ang ating mga naging sakripisyo sa ngalan ng serbisyo.

Sa buhay na ito, mahalaga ang magtiwala sa sistema ng pamahalaan, huwag pabugso-bugso at magplano ng maingat bago gawin ang huling hakbang tungo sa sibilyang buhay. Huraah!

WANDA LITTLE CHAMPIONS

PHILIPPINE NAVY AND MARINE DEPENDENTS

AT THE FIBA WORLD CUP

MAJ JERBER ANTHONY BELONIO PN(M)



To say that basketball is the favorite sport of Filipinos is truly an understatement. Through the years, basketball fanaticism in the country has bordered on the level of religion, much like football fandom is in Europe. The sport is a common topic among people especially when a big basketball event is held, such as the NBA Championship and of course, the recently concluded FIBA World Cup. FIBA was founded in 1950 and is held every four years with 32 countries competing for the coveted title.

Though the Philippine team did not win the gold medal, it was still a proud

moment for Filipino fans who were able to host the event together with Japan and Indonesia. The Philippines was given the honor of hosting the championship game which really thrilled the thousands who watched in the venue and the millions more who were watched the live coverage in their television sets, laptops, and mobile phones. The FIBA World Cup was a historic moment, for the possibility of hosting would probably only come in 48 years. This year's competition ran from August 25 to September 10, 2023, and the games in the Philippines were held at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City and the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon

City, while the opening was held at the Philippine Arena in Santa Maria, Bulacan.

If the Filipino fans felt lucky for having witnessed the competition in person or just shared in the basketball fanfare spirit, then there is no greater feeling of pride and joy than the ones felt by the Filipino children who were chosen to take part in the Wanda Little Champions Program. The program selects children from each host nation as Little Champions who are bestowed the honor of accompanying the players during the team presentations, before the tip off. A total of 192 children ages 8 to 14 years old volunteered for the program.

Through the efforts of the Makati Medical Center Foundation, Inc., one of the foundations under the MVP Group of Companies, 24 children of our Navy and Marine officers and enlisted personnel were chosen to present the teams competing on August 28, 2023. The MMC Foundation is headed by Dr. Victor L. Gisbert with Ms. Marge Macasaet-Barro as the Executive Director. The foundation is a reliable partner and supportive stakeholder of the Philippine Marine Corps. Another significant person who contributed to the children's wonderful experience BGen. Rodylyn Manzano PN(M)(RES) whose collaboration with the MMC Foundation made their participation possible.

The children were all set on the morning of August 28 and were transported to the staging area at Novotel adjacent to the Smart Araneta Coliseum, the venue for the games

between China and South Sudan, which was followed by Serbia against Puerto Rico. The parents did not accompany their children during the matches, but just like true basketball fans, they could not keep their excitement as the children will have a chance to walk beside notable NBA players such as Kyle Anderson of the Minnesota Timberwolves who was playing for China, Wenyen Gabriel of the Los Angeles Lakers and Carlik Jones of the Chicago Bulls who were playing for South Sudan, and of course, the more popular Bogdan Bogdanovic of the Atlanta Hawks and Nikola Jovic of the Miami Heat who were playing for Serbia, one of the eventual contenders for the gold medal.

Before the game, the children were each given a complete set of uniform. Moments before the game, they were escorted towards the arena in order to rehearse for the team presentation. After a short while they were partnered with their respective players and walked side by side towards center court and stood respectively as each team's national anthem played. After the tip off, they were also given a chance to watch the matches. Loud cheers were heard from the little champions as they shouted their hearts out in support of their respective teams.

The Wanda Little Champions Program is really one for the books for both the children and the parents. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to stand side by side with the world's best ball players.

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

MAJ JERBER ANTHONY BELONIO PN(M)

The Book of Revelation talks about the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse that ushered in the end of times. First came pestilence, followed by war, then famine, and finally, death. Though an apocalypse of such proportion is yet to come, we must ponder on how we have seen the relatable effects of these horsemen throughout history. We have seen how they have corrupted civilizations that were established and governed by people through the establishment of different organizations. An organization, after all, is just a body of people that adheres to a particular purpose. We should see that the world is but a large-scale organization. It is made up of different nations that have witnessed the rise and fall of empires, kingdoms and great armies.

Pestilence

This is brought upon by those who forget that the driving force of an organization is the people. And this means talented, skilled and hardworking people. One cannot lift up the organization by sheer hard work alone. Intelligence plays a significant factor. Intelligence harnesses a person's ability to learn and excel. This is something that cannot be determined by an educational degree alone. This is determined by how a person does his job. The people at the helm must have a keen eye for recognizing potential so that the captain can concentrate on steering the ship. But there are times when the people tasked to screen new recruits will accept just about anyone out of sheer laziness or disregard for the welfare of the organization. They will simply rely on the requirements on paper and will forego any more evaluation since it takes time and effort.

The problem does not stop there. Just as with the recruitment, there is also a stigma with the promotion process. Some organizations are into the practice of promoting just about anyone since they have been around for so long. There is nothing wrong with that. Loyalty must be rewarded. But then again, the interest of the organization must always take precedence. Though it is reasonable to reward loyalty, it's not effective. Being around longer does not guarantee that one has acquired the necessary knowledge or skill for that certain job. In the end, it will be the organization that will suffer. Getting the right person for the right job means assessing his capabilities, testing his skills and evaluating his knowledge on that specific job. Taking these for granted will eventually result in the deterioration of the organization and cause its downfall.

War

In most adaptations of the prophecy, this horseman is depicted as civil war. And when placed in the context of an organization, this refers to the infighting that occurs among the members. If the members of an organization fight among themselves, then it causes division, that, in the long run, will cause its destruction. There will always be moments when a rotten bunch find their way inside an organization and sow chaos among its members. Some of them even find their way to the top and begin dismantling the organization by poisoning the minds of the people higher than them and bringing about inconceivable suffering to the people beneath them. This kind of parasite always has an ulterior motive and hidden agendas which they spread through gossip and misinformation. They also use smokescreen and blow things out of proportion in order to

hide their own misgivings. They will create a gap between the top management and the people under them. Chaos is their strategy. Fear is their weapon. They will always try to project strength over the people under them by intimidation. They will pretend to be someone important in order to hide their insecurities. They are always plotting and scheming not only against the people on top but even those beneath them. By spreading chaos, instilling fear, their mere toxic presence is enough to put the organization in complete disarray, thus contributing to its demise.

Famine

This is brought about by the shortage of talent --- real talent, because members opt to leave the organization in search of greener pasture. There are many reasons this happens. One could be that they want a nurturing environment where they can grow. There are times when one feels that his or her talents are wasted because the organization itself does not utilize its people well. Putting the right person in the right position, for the right job is the guiding principle behind the success of an organization. If everyone knows and understands his or her role, then they can all work together to steer the organization towards success. Another reason for people leaving is the lack for appreciation for their contributions to the organization. The ones behind the success of any organization are the people. These are rational beings that also have feelings. They understand their worth and they know their value. So, unless the organization is made up of robots, mindless or simply dumb people, then, it is time to recognize the value of every member that contributes to its overall success. When the people that keep the organization afloat start to leave en masse, then it will be the start of a downward spiral.

Death

This is brought upon by the loss of belief in the principles upon which the foundation of an organization was built upon. This happens when people lose faith in their purpose. Leaders of an organization must see to it that the people are well motivated in order

to pursue its goals. The people in charge must keep in mind that they are leaders of people --- Intelligent and rational people. It is not enough that they signed a contract or swore an oath or get paid in order for them to be convinced to give their all in pursuit of something greater than themselves. At the end of the day, they will always ask, "What is in it for me?" And that is the question that a leader must ask himself or herself before convincing other people to commit to the cause. Being indoctrinated with the principles of an organization is not enough. They have to be guided in adhering to such principles through the examples set by their leaders. Establishing faith in something is not a one-shot deal. It needs constant reminder. And they need to be reassured that the people leading them adhere to the same principles that are instilled in them. One crucial factor that would make people lose faith is having double standards. Every guiding principle must be absolute and followed by everyone. There should be no excuse and everyone must be held accountable. People must not only call upon adherence when convenient, then will look the other way when it means that they will be in peril. This kind of double standard is a symptom that will develop into a horrid disease if not checked. And as it spreads to the whole organization, it will be another cause of its demise.

These are the four horsemen that will bring about the apocalypse. The end of the world. And like all the books in the bible, the Book of Revelation is subject to our own interpretation. While the end of the world is something that is considered a prophecy, the fall of empires, governments, great armies of the past, modern companies and anything that are considered an organization has already happened. People have witnessed the rise and fall of many great organizations. And it was brought about by these very four horsemen. We must heed the signs of times. History can be prevented from repeating itself. The four horsemen must be identified and slain, lest they bring about the end.



MY DRILL INSTRUCTOR

TSgt Bayani B Rosario PN(M)

I saw that shining buckle and the shimmering anchor of the campaign hat.
I heard a shout like a thunderstorm that made me tremble.

It was my first day of training, a reception of physical and mental alertness; they pushed me to my limits. I survived, but some didn't.
I had already feared their presence, did what they said, and didn't want to make mistakes.

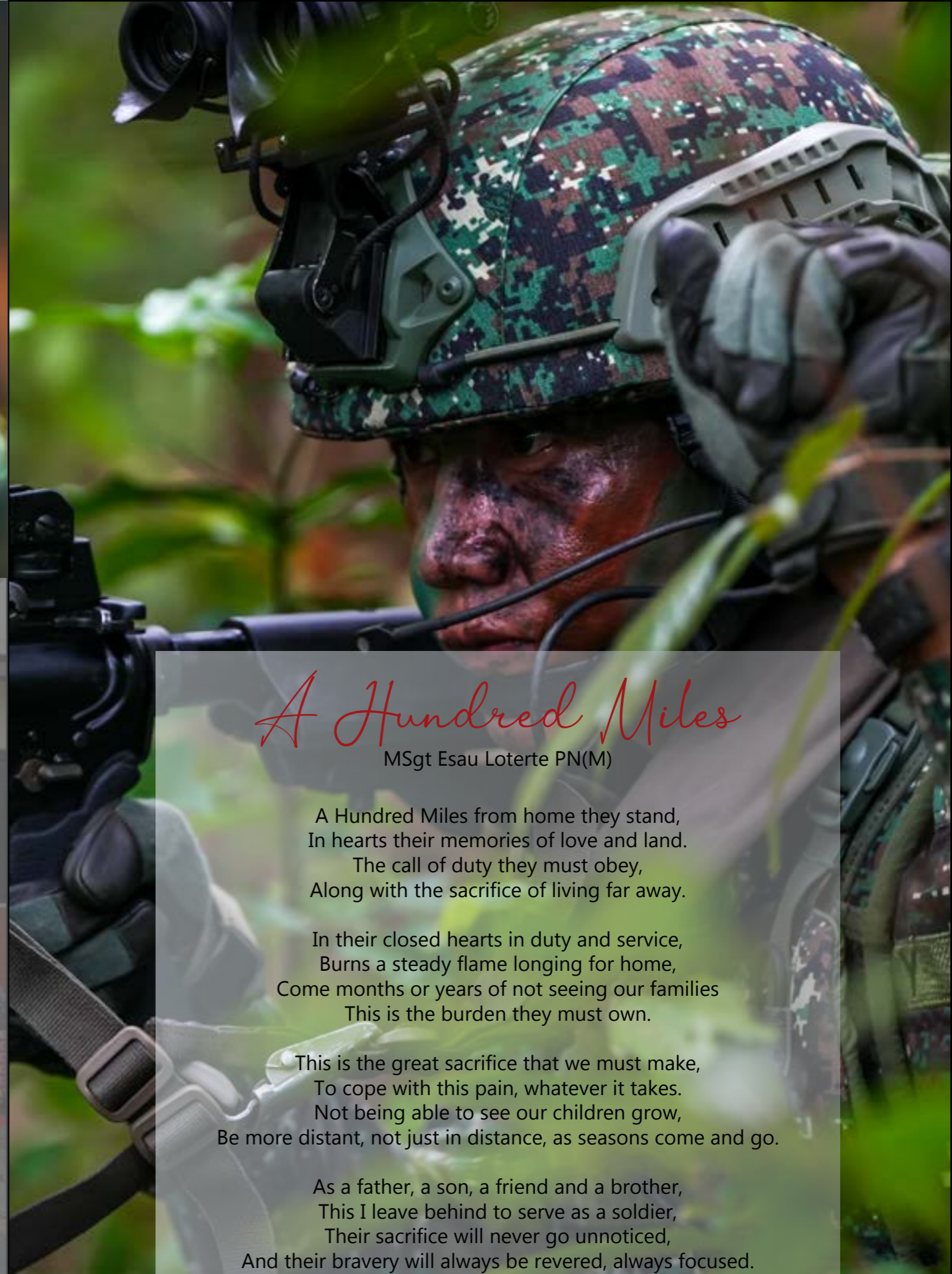
It was a lasting first impression, the voice of the Drill Instructor filled with anger and harshness.

We learned how to move as one, marching every day at the grandstand. He put a rifle in my hand and taught me to become the best marksman.
I remember our FTX; he taught me war fighting strategies and instilled in us the will to fight to defeat our enemies.

It was time to pin the Marine Emblem, the shield symbolizing toughness, the rope showing brotherhood, and the anchor symbolizing the force of readiness.
I wondered why my Drill Instructor did not put it on me and it made me realize he was making me do it.

I asked myself, "Did I thank my Drill Instructor? How could I thank him?"

Expressing gratitude is like embracing the discipline he instilled in me and striving to be the best in soldiery.



A Hundred Miles

MSgt Esau Loterte PN(M)

A Hundred Miles from home they stand,
In hearts their memories of love and land.
The call of duty they must obey,
Along with the sacrifice of living far away.

In their closed hearts in duty and service,
Burns a steady flame longing for home,
Come months or years of not seeing our families
This is the burden they must own.

This is the great sacrifice that we must make,
To cope with this pain, whatever it takes.
Not being able to see our children grow,
Be more distant, not just in distance, as seasons come and go.

As a father, a son, a friend and a brother,
This I leave behind to serve as a soldier,
Their sacrifice will never go unnoticed,
And their bravery will always be revered, always focused.



PHILIPPINE MARINES

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE...

MARINE OFFICER CANDIDATE



QUALIFICATIONS

- AT LEAST 21 BUT NOT MORE THAN 26 YEARS 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)

CONTACT US:

 Recruitment Office
 Philippine Marine Corps
 philmar.recruitment@gmail.com
 0956-087-4591 / 0817-321-7820

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

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

"PMC @73: MOST READY, ALWAYS FORWARD IN THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME NATION".



PHILIPPINE MARINES

SERVE YOUR COUNTRY WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE...

MARINE CANDIDATE SOLDIER



QUALIFICATIONS

- AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD AND NOT MORE THAN 24 YEARS OLD
- 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)

INITIAL REQUIREMENTS

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

CONTACT US:

 Recruitment Office
 Philippine Marine Corps
 philmar.recruitment@gmail.com
 0956-087-4591
 0917-321-7820

"PMC @73: MOST READY, ALWAYS FORWARD IN THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME NATION".



KARANGALAN
KATUNGKULAN
KABAYANIHAN

