



# CITEMAR 6

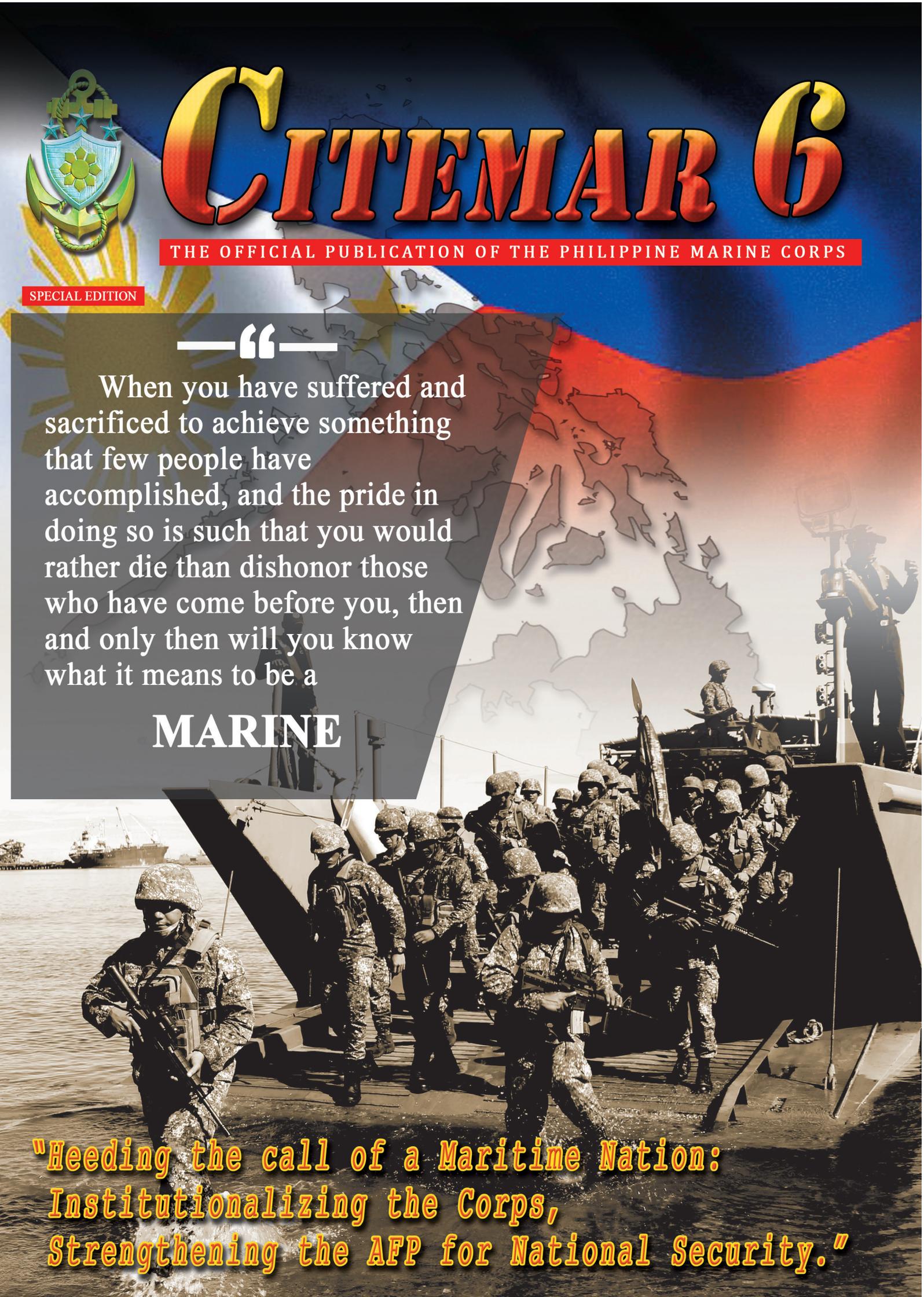
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

SPECIAL EDITION

—“—

When you have suffered and sacrificed to achieve something that few people have accomplished, and the pride in doing so is such that you would rather die than dishonor those who have come before you, then and only then will you know what it means to be a

**MARINE**



**"Heeding the call of a Maritime Nation:  
Institutionalizing the Corps,  
Strengthening the AFP for National Security."**



# Editor's Note

"AFP's Premier Force in Readiness and the Nation's Force of Choice"



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## Philippine Marine Corps, AFP's Fourth Branch of Service?

On March 5 and 6, 2018, House Bill 7304 and Senate Bill 1731 "An Act Establishing the Philippine Marine Corps, Defining its power and functions, appropriating funds thereof, and for other purposes" or "The Philippine Marine Corps Act" were introduced by Representatives Pantaleon D. Alvarez and Rodolfo C. Fariñas, and Senator Sonny Angara, respectively. SB# 1748 and 1741 were also filed by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay. The bills seek to establish the Philippine Marine Corps as a branch of service, distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy under the AFP.

On March 21, the Secretary of National Defense, Delfin N. Lorenzana released a statement to the media opposing the proposal to make the Philippine Marine Corps a separate service from the Philippine Navy. However, since this is for the

growth and development of the Corps, all members of the Philippine Marine Corps and the community where they are deployed and where they serve support the passage of the bill. The support coming from the stakeholders is overwhelming and unexpected which encourages every Marine to be more committed to the service they have sworn.

But what is PMC Charter all about? Why is there a need for an empowered and formally chartered Philippine Marine Corps? Why do we have to institutionalize the Philippine Marine Corps? This Special Edition of Citemar6 with the theme, "Heeding the Call of a Maritime Nation: Institutionalizing the Corps, Strengthening the AFP for National Security" gives us awareness on the Philippine Marine Corps Act proposed in the Congress and in the Senate and its impact to the Philippine Navy and to the national security of the country as a whole.

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**COMMANDANT**  
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**POSITION PAPER ON THE NEED TO HAVE AN AUTONOMOUS  
MARINE CORPS AS A DISTINCT MILITARY SERVICE FROM  
ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE.**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Background. There are Bills filed both in the Houses of Congress entitled "An Act Establishing the Philippine Marine Corps, Defining its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefore, and Other Purposes". The Bills HB#7304 and SB# 1731 prescribe that the Philippine Marine Corps shall be established as an autonomous, distinct but complementary force to the Philippine Army, Philippine Navy and Philippine Air Force.

Our position. With this welcome development, I, the Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, and your Marines, 9647 strong firmly support the virtuous intent and desire of these Bills. Our strong manifestation of support to this noble cause is in honor of the 1,473 Marines who sacrificed their lives in the battlefield since 1950; and to herald the long-line of Marine Heroes in the service of our nation living up to the Marine Corps Motto of Karangalan , Katungkulan, and Kabayanihan.

## **II. GEOGRAPHY and AFP JOINT OPERATION**

Our country will always be configured along its archipelagic geography.

As a maritime nation there is a need for a paradigm shift from predominantly continental view of our domain which is air, sea and land to an archipelagic view stressing the gaps along the littorals, that is, the regions lying along the shores.

The vastness of our 36,289 kilometre coastline laid out over the islands has opened opportunities for ISIS-DAESH inspired and other terrorist groups which threaten the security of our nation.

Clearly, the archipelagic nature of our geography is a fundamental reason for why there is an imperative for seaborne striking force and a combined arms national maneuver force to address the security and defense needs of the country.

In Marawi, the Marines sent One (1) Marine Brigade with Three (3) Marine Battalions supported by armored tanks, field artillery, and service support units. Your Armed Forces delivered its promise to liberate Marawi through their gallant acts during the crisis.

## **III. FORCE PROVIDER CONCEPT**

The Armed Forces currently has three (3) Branches of Service; the Philippine Air Force, the Philippine Army, and the Philippine Navy. As force providers, their primary function is to organize, train, equip, maintain and develop their respective forces. The Air Force develops forces that specialize on Air Warfare. The Army develops forces that specialize on Land Warfare. The Navy develops forces that specialize on Sea Warfare while designating the Marines as the force primary responsible for the overlap of sea and land; which is the littorals. The Philippine Navy has a total number of 22 units having the Philippine Fleet and the Marines as its Major Units or Type Commands.

## IV. WHO ARE WE?

In between Land and Sea Warfare, the Marine Corps Operating Concept mandates the organization to develop forces that will specialize in maneuvers along the littoral environment. Such maneuvers are either island to island, landward to seaward, seaward to landward and seaward to seaward.

The Marine Corps complements the Navy by being the naval combat power projected from the sea towards the shore; and also complement the land-based maneuvers of the Army through our ground combat maneuvers. It is to be stressed that the Marines was given the sole mandate to develop hard-hitting seaborne striking forces with a distinct warfighting Ethos, Doctrines, and Culture.

The Philippine Marines is a product of 67 years of experience and building blocks molded from sacrifices of our forebears which has been an integral part of our culture. It would take the length and depth of time to master such unique special capabilities distinctive of a Marine. From Huks to ISIS, your Marines have participated in all major and historic military campaigns since 1950.

As a type command, the requirement for seaborne capabilities is competing with equally important surface assets or ships of the Navy. The deficit in the desired capabilities places our Marines at disadvantage during combat; hence, the long list of our accomplishments came at a very high price.

Finally, there is the dissimilar concept on force development approach between the Navy which is focused on Sea and the Marines which is focused on Sea-Land. They differ in terms of; 1) the human resource development; 2) the broader organizational development; and 3) the force integration and development.

## V. FORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MARINE CORPS AS A BRANCH OF SERVICE

The Marine Corps as a Branch of Service effectively complements its "co-force providers", the three branches of service. With the PMC Charter, it will assure the growth of both the Navy and the Marines in particular, and the AFP as a whole.

The Navy and the Marines shall complement each other in undertaking the development of their respective organizational structure, people and leadership, competency training, and material capability.

Once elevated as a major service, it will ensure that the Marines will be a capable partner to the Army, Navy, and Air Force once they meet and join forces in the battlefield. The Corps will now have an important voice so crucial to the decision making of our Commander-in-Chief; the Father to this Nation, in addressing the gap in the sea-land overlap.

## VI. HEEDING THE CALL

Every time our nation faces crises, high threats and national emergencies, there is always a clamor for Marines.

From our inception in 1950 to the present, we have consistently carried out our mission and delivered our best, even at the expense of our lives.

We have sacrificed our today for the nation's future.

And now there is another call from the Filipino people to define the future of the Marines.

Given our 67 years of honorable service to the nation, we strongly believe that you would agree with us that your Marines have earned the right to a charter and the right to define our future.

We pray that this august body grant our fervent wish for the Philippine Marine Corps to be the fourth Branch of Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

**SEND IN THE MARINES!**



**ALVIN A. PARREÑO**  
MAJ GEN      AFP

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR  
Philippine Marine Corps  
Marine Barracks Rudiardo Brown  
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City**



**F**or more than six decades, the Philippine Marine Corps has been renowned for its being an elite force capable of doing seaborne operations. It is a striking force first to respond in any crisis situation. History will tell the rest of its accomplishments and its nature and character that bagged the names "Representative of the Best in Soldierly", "the Few, the Proud, and First to Fight" among others.

The nation has been a witness to the dedication and selfless service of each Marine, from Pfc Acero to 1LT TOONG, to Cpl Layaguin and Cpl Narag, and to 1LT SAVELLANO and his team who have shown the kind of discipline and integrity the Marines have.

For 67 years, the Corps exists with pride and honor and has always shown to the people the standard of professionalism, and excellence of dedicated service to our country. For those years, the people clamor for its presence in the community so as to feel secured and protected. However, its existence through AFP General Order 319 dated 02 November 1950 reflects how unstable the Corps is. It has been dependent on the Philippine Navy as to equipment, personnel and capability enhancement. Yes, we have accomplished much in terms

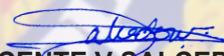
of warfighting but these accomplishments are costly, at the expense of 1,473 Marines killed-in-action from its birth up to present.

At present, our country is facing change in security environment. It is not anymore the typical conventional warfare which needs number of forces against another number of forces. We have now cyber warfare, mass warfare, information warfare, and even space warfare, among others.

As to the forces and concept of joint operations is concerned, the Philippine Air Force takes care of the air space, the Philippine Navy takes care of the territorial waters, and the Philippine Army takes care of the territorial land. How about the vacuum between the sea and land? This is where the seaborne force enters which controls littorals all over the Philippines and operates complementarily with the Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy and Philippine Army. This is where the Marines are trained for and this is where it should develop and be given capabilities to enhance in order to strengthen national security.

This was seen by the sponsors of the proposed bill, "Philippine Marine Corps Act of 2018" in the congress and in the senate. As the Father of all Enlisted Personnel of the Corps, I stand up with the Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps in airing out the voices of the all Marines all over the country to make a better Philippine Marine Corps and to institutionalize our organization for the benefit of our young Marines, for the Philippine Navy, for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and for the whole country.

**#sendintheMARINES  
#standwiththeMARINES**



**CMS VICENTE V. SALCEDO PN(M)  
Command Sergeant Major, PMC**

# Our Journey to Change!

By: COL ARIEL R CACULITAN PN(M)(GSC)



**T**he debate is currently on! Should the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) be allowed to separate from the Philippine Navy (PN) and become a separate Branch of Service (BoS) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)? The answer of course is expected to be varied depending on one's lens or better yet say, on who's doing the talking. But before we get swallowed by our own biases, let us look at circumstances that makes it ripe or not for its self-determination.

## The Wind Beneath

Outside the Philippine Marine Corps, there is a public clamor for making the PMC a separate branch of service of the AFP. House Bill 7304 pertaining to PMC Charter is authored and filed by no-nonsense leaders of the house— Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo Fariñas. Other house leaders also expressed their support for the immediate approval of the bill like Assistant Minority Leader Aniceto "John" Bertiz Jr who puts emphasis on the implication of the separation of the PMC as a boost to the country's national security capabilities. Majority members of the

defense panel, Muntinlupa City Representative Rufino Biazon and Surigao del Norte Representative Johnny Ty Pimentel added that a tough military unit with exceptional amphibious capabilities for military defense and disaster response is what our country requires with its archipelagic state.

Representatives Pimentel and Bertiz furthered their support asking the principal proponents for their inclusion as co-authors of the bill. Another house leader showing pronounced support is 2nd District, Zamboanga City Representative Manuel Jose "Mannix" Dalipe who sponsored the Bill last 19 March 2018 during the Second Regular Session of the 17th Congress. A similar Senate Bill 1731 is also filed by Senator Sonny Angara in support of the PMC Charter. This was supported by the bills introduced and filed by Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri (Senate Bill 1748) and Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy Binay (Senate Bill 1741). By their influence and political affiliation, the PMC bill is highly expected to get the numbers.

It would not be difficult for the lawmakers to decide in support of the PMC bill since the Philippine

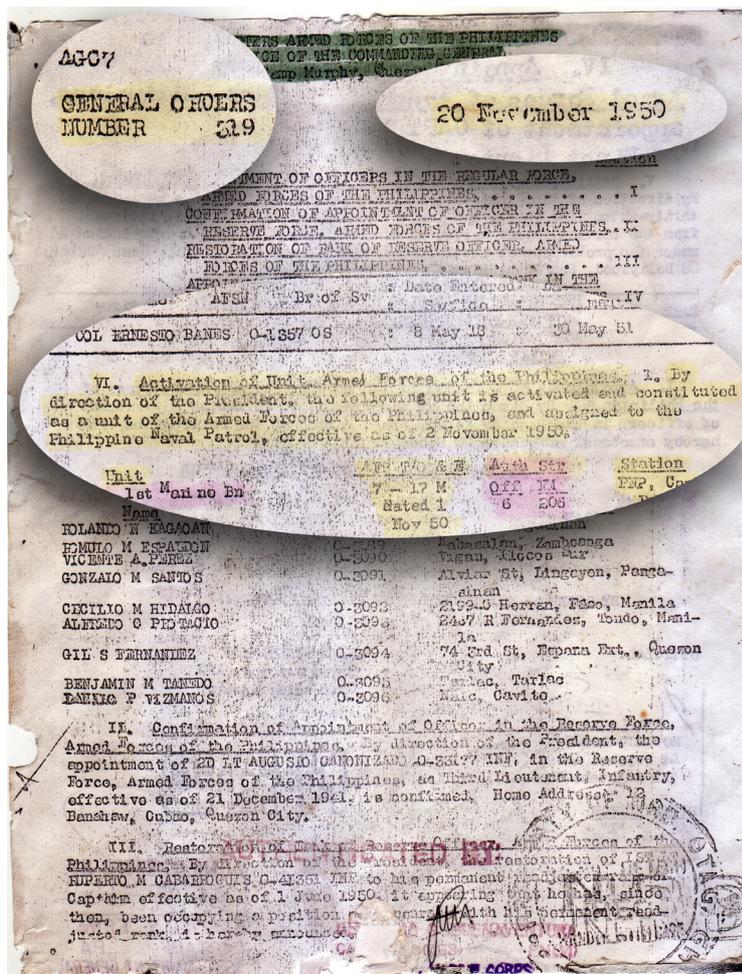
Marine Corps has already established a legacy of service in the different parts of the archipelago. Thanks to the national media for it does not fail to capture the heroism and sacrifices of our Marines during the difficult moments of our nation. At present, the Marines is a key public figure that is highly respected by the general public because of its extraordinary discipline and warfighting skills. Thanks to the many Marines that have showcased our ethos of "Karangalan, Katungkulan, Kabayanihan" in different times, no matter what it takes. And to the Marines who are willing to risk it all, even of losing their precious lives. Recent of which was the display of Marine discipline by 1LT JOHN FREDERICK S SAVELLANO and members of his team during the Marawi Siege. In disbelief, the Filipino people lay witness to their extra ordinary act of recovering huge amount of money, looted by Maute ISIS, worth more or less eighty million pesos (Php 80,000,000.00) during the heat of battle, which they have completely turned over and accounted to the last centavo. No other story of such kind of honesty ever came out on that main battle

area ever again.

In effect, their action tremendously reaped respect not only for the Marines but for all the men in uniform. The public was amazed and became proud of their integrity. They were both happy and surprised for they see a virtue that is not often seen nowadays among our people. Three days after, the whole nation was shocked by

the young people of today would emulate. Hence, it bears upon the Marines now the outpouring social capital from people of all walks of life. The support for the PMC bill is multiplying and the bandwagon is accelerating at a high speed. One day it may find its place at the table of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (PRRD), as to whether he would sign it into a law is in the meantime a work

his reputation, I am certainly sure that everybody believes in the purity of his intentions that this direction is for the benefit of the Corps and not for any personal motives. Several former Marine Commandants like LT GEN EMMANUEL B SALAMAT AFP, LT GEN JUANCHO SABBAN AFP, former Senator, GEN RUDOLFO BIAZON AFP already joined in the frontlines of public messaging. While there are some who were having second thoughts, they opted not to oppose and respected the pulse of the Corps. On my personal account in three instances, the Marines were in unison in supporting the PMC Charter. This is also true in other units as evidenced in the growing social media interactive exchanges like #SendintheMARINES, #StandwiththeMARINES, #Support the PMC bill 2018, etc..



Inside every single Marine, this journey brings excitement, hope for a brighter future, and a rallying point with the Commandant. Thanks to the bright minds of the PMC Board of Advisers (BOA), their networks, and most of all for their sincere concern. The Philippine Marine Corps is not only around 9000+ strong. They are multiplied by the numbers of their families and friends in different places.

### Looking back to the years from 1950..

The 67 years of the Marines was never a walk in the park. It is deeply characterized by several decades of heroism and sacrifices. Marines saw action against the threat of the "HUKBALAHAP" in the 1950's, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in the 1970's in Mindanao, the CPP/NPA that almost put the nation in a strategic stalemate in the latter part of 1980's and early 1990's, and the MILF campaign in Central Mindanao in the year 2000.

Over the years, the Corps has earned a total of nine (9) Medal of Valor

a tragic news. People wept on the death of 1LT SAVELLANO and members of his team during one of the fiercest battles. They were the first to have crossed the firing lines of Mapandi Bridge amidst heavy gun fires from different directions, when other troops were unable to maneuver because it was heavily defended by the terrorists. Surely, they are a big loss in our ranks, but definitely they have left the Filipino people a lasting inspiration of doing good and sacrifice for the country, for which

in progress, for the quest to an independent Branch of Service (BoS) is not without serious challenges.

Inside the Philippine Marine Corps, there is not much need for discussion for obvious reason. Every Marine loves the Marine Corps, and whatever way brings good to the Corps will surely be supported. Thanks to our Commandant, MAJ GEN ALVIN A PARREÑO AFP for providing the diplomatic and persuasive leadership in this journey to change. Thanks to

awardees, and lost a total of 1,473 killed-in-action (KIA) during battles. It has grown from six (6) officers, eight (8) Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) and 230 civilian recruits to now roughly 9,500 strong.

It is a seaborne striking force that can do planning and preparation

integrated combat and service support assets for their fire support and maneuvers which are something different from the Army way. The Special Operations Command (SOCOM) of the Army is different from the Marines because it is a "special operations" national maneuver force. Unlike the Marines, SOCOM does not

hero at the national park. If only he can talk, Dr Jose Rizal would surely support the PMC bill without delay because of his dutiful Marine sentinels who stand still for hours without extra movement. By its rich history of meaningful and significant 67 years of service, the PMC may have earned its place in the ranks equal to other branch of service of the AFP.

## Why separate..

Why separate and why fix if it ain't broke? What are opportunities that this change may bring about? What is the loss?

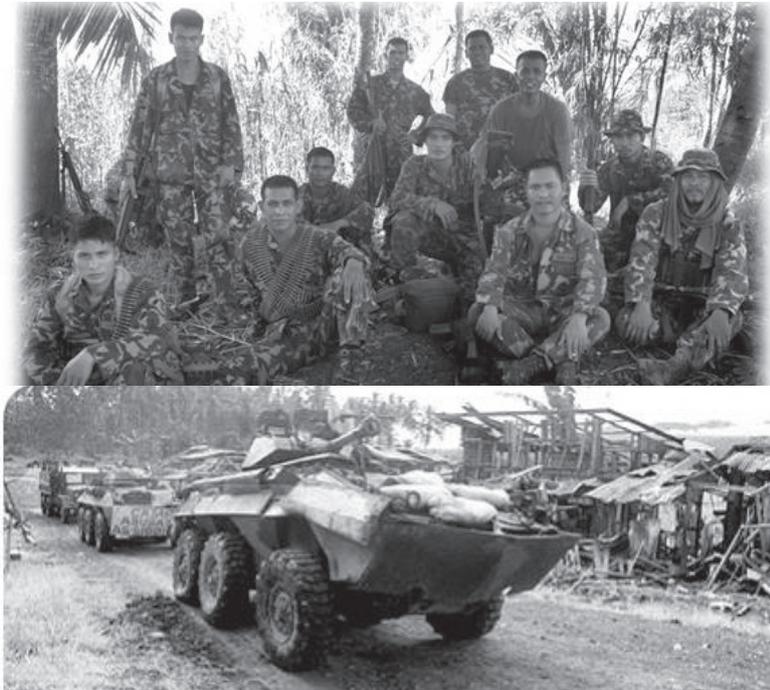
Whatever status that the Philippine Marine Corps has now, it is largely for the support of its mother unit, the Philippine Navy. For 67 years, it depended for resources, training, and career opportunities for the ranks and files. Its capability is anchored on Navy platforms especially sealift amphibious ships and other ship to shore assets. So why stand independently?

Perhaps, the best way to answer this is to present opportunities that may be brought about by the change. The Navy and the Marines both stand to benefit in the separation in terms of growth and capability development and career advancement. Roughly, the Philippine Navy including the Marines is around 24,000 strong. It is relatively small compared

in the littorals while aboard the ships, conduct ship to shore movements, assault hostile shores, and conduct further inland operations. Its maritime interdiction capability in the littorals and inter-island conduct of raids make it different and unique. But aside from a seaborne striking force, the Marines is a "combined arms" national maneuver force. Meaning, it is a heavy and conventional force that may be tapped during national emergencies to deal with large scale threat groups like the MILF campaign in the year 2000, wherein two Marine Brigades landed in Central Mindanao and pierced through by fire and maneuver until they seized MILF's Camp Abubakar. Similar to this is the 1st Marine Brigade under BGEN MELQUIADES ORDIALEZ AFP participation in the liberation of Marawi in 2017. Our brigades and battalions are complete with

have the integrated combat power capabilities such as Armor, Artillery, and other support capabilities.

Marines are operating in several mission deployment areas such as the Spratly Islands, Batanes, and Tawi-Tawi, and even at the monument of our national



to the vast archipelagic and territorial maritime security need of the country. It is also very small compared to the Navy and Marines in the region. The Royal Thai Navy has a total strength around 71,000 while the Indonesian Navy has 74,000 and Vietnam People's Navy also has 50,000.

With the separation, both can aggressively pursue their growth in numbers by completing personnel fill-up requirements and embarking on no-nonsense capability development. Since the Marines will no longer compete with the sailors in terms of resources, the Navy may now modernize faster without the Marines in tow. It may have more focus on the high seas in defending our territory with more sophisticated surface and sub-surface capability in protecting our sovereignty. In the same vein, Marines may pursue its modern capability development faster and recruit the consequent personnel requirements. It may grow into Marine Divisions that have staging areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. It may maintain a lean and mean force that is highly disciplined, excellent in warfighting capabilities, and seek to become superior in technology. Marines may also be tasked to take care of the littoral municipal waters for the conduct of limited maritime interdiction and inter-island operations which seem to be the "playing ground" of the ASG terrorists and other threat groups especially in Mindanao.

The separation will also result to a more pragmatic and focused career opportunities. Everybody knows that Sailors and Marines are apples and oranges. Truly, they are different in their career billets on the way up. Hence, pitting sailors and marines to compete for positions especially at the rank of O7 (General/Flag Rank) and up may not be appropriate. Since, selection of senior officers is always vulnerable to respective biases and subjective factors.



## What is the loss..?

While there is public clamor from outside the AFP, it seems difficult to gain support from our fellow men in uniform, which brings me to realize these questions: Is there a loss? On whose part? Models are available from modern military outside our country. The Marine Corps, Republic of Korea is a separate branch of service at 29,000 strong, UK Royal Marines at 8,000 strong, US Marines although under the Department of Navy is still a separate BoS at 182,000 strong. Did they lose anything from transitioning into a separate BoS? That is a question difficult to find an answer, if not devoid of one.

Yes, it would entail not just an organizational effort from the PMC but also from the whole AFP and the DND. But would that be considered a loss if this charter only endeavors to improve our organization as a separate BoS? Some would say, budget constraint might be a problem. But we face the same challenge every time we consider projects for the modernization of our Armed Forces. This is more so part of the greater path we are taking towards the development of our capabilities as an amphibious force. We will surely not be bigger than the Army, Air Force and Navy nor do we intend to equal their number. We will still

have our distinct nature as an amphibious assault force of the AFP and complementary to the Army, Air Force and Navy. We are a cost-effective unit, since we are small.

While we support the growth and development of our Army in its activation of more battalions and recruiting 10,000 personnel, our Air Force for modern fighter planes in its quest for air supremacy and our Navy for frigates and submarine acquisition. It would be heartwarming if similar kind of support is accorded to the Philippine Marine Corps.

We want to better the Corps by working on our organizational challenges and still not putting the whole of AFP in any harm's way. Our united willingness to be separated as an equal BoS with the Army, Air Force and Navy is a good start. The support of our law makers and the public is a plus. Collectively, it is our prayer that the higher leadership may find also the opportunities for a better and more balanced AFP so that we can be together in our journey to change!

A British Statesman and a key figure in the introduction of many reforms, David Lloyd George once said "Don't be afraid to take a big step. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps."



## Working on the Legacy of Old Marines

By: 2LT ANGELICA O FAUSTINO PN(M)

The Philippine Marine Corps was established in 1950 thru Executive Order of the then Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay to respond to the security threat of the emerging Hukbalahap insurgency. As of this year, 2018, the estimated number of personnel in the Corps is about 9,000 strong. Despite of which, the PMC still lacks personnel and equipment to fill up its organizational and combat systems requirements.

The PMC is currently one of the Philippine Navy's two (2) Type Commands; and is supportive to the House Bill 7304 and Senate Bill 1731 both known as Philippine Marine Corps Act of 2018. The Marines, as strong believer and advocate of peace and faithful servant of the country, are in full support of these proposed legislations. This is one of the dreams of their forefathers and they cross their fingers to its passage.

This chance for the organization to become independent, distinct and autonomous arm of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will never be wasted. The Marines have proven itself since 1950 and will continue to uphold its mandate to protect the people and the country's sovereignty even if its existence can be eliminated in a wink of an eye.

The archipelagic nature of the Philippines demands a great security that the Marines are more capable of. Our country is composed of 7, 641 islands and islets. Indeed, the Philippines is one big coastal community of more than 100 million people. These people have demanded the presence of Marines in their community whenever they feel unsecured especially in the littoral areas of our country.

Over the decades, the Philippine Marine Corps continuously fight for peace without hesitation. They are inspired of envisioning children living in peaceful and progressive community. However, their fight is never easy. They fight terrorists, secessionists, and lawless elements while fighting and haggling for resources and logistical requirements to fully equip their warriors. Facing these difficulties in the various battle arenas, the Marines still stand proud and perform its duty humbly and gallantly.

As they aspire to be separated from the Philippine Navy and be named as another branch of service complementary to the Navy, Air Force and Army, challenges are unsurprising. Various views arise -positive and negative. There are push and pull. But what is significant is the belief of each Marine to firmly hold to the interest of the organization.

The Philippine Marine Corps has proud and honourable history of selfless service and sacrifice carefully carved by old Marines. This Philippine Marine Corps Act of 2018 is one of their legacies to us, young Marines as we pursue our vision to be the "AFP's Premier Force in Readiness and the Nation's Force of Choice."

We hope that in its 68th year of existence, the Philippine Marine Corps will celebrate its birth as a major service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

**2LT ANGELICA O FAUSTINO O-18592 PN(M) is a Platoon Commander of 10th MC, 10th Marine Battalion. She is a member of NOCC "MADANGPAN-AN" CLASS 28 and MOBC CLASS 40. She resides in Malawog, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo.**



# “WHERE EVEN ANGELS DARE NOT GO...”

By: MAJ TINO P MASLAN JR PN(M)(GSC)



—“—  
No one is born with the Warrior Ethos, though many of its tenets appear naturally in young men and women of all cultures. The Warrior Ethos is taught. On the football field in Topeka, in the mountains of the Hindu Kush, on the lion-infested plains of Kenya and Tanzania. Courage is modeled for the youth by fathers and older brothers, by mentors and elders. It is inculcated, in almost all cultures, by regimen of training and discipline. This discipline frequently culminates in an ordeal of initiation. The Spartan youth receives his shield, the paratrooper is awarded his wings, the Afghan boy is handed his AK-47.  
- Steven Pressfield, The Warrior Ethos

**T**ERNATE, 30 August 2001: the two Marines laid their backs flat on the side of the lengthy and winding asphalted road while gazing at the cloudy night sky. They were still wet from the downpour hours before. They were tired, hungry, and cold from that numerous miles of walking, hiding, and running in the dead of night wearing only their black cycling shorts, t-shirts and pairs of flip-flops when they finally decided to take a rest. So they just laid there as the rainwater dews trickled from the foliage next to them. Suddenly, the celestial bodies slowly appeared at an opening from the night sky directly above them, illuminating their blackened surroundings. The starlight and airglow were hauntingly beautiful as that night became remarkably quiet. Even the crickets and other forest creatures around them conspired to remain silent to allow for one of the Marines whisper a birthday song dedicated to his companion friend. The coziness of their homes, the warmth of their girlfriends' embrace, and the caring of their families made them ask the question, "Why

do we have to go through this grueling moments of our youth, while there are many other options that would ensure our comfort, luxury, and safety?" As a teardrop ran on the side of the other Marine's face, they started to reminisce their distant and recent past that led them to this misery they must now endure... because they volunteered for it.

The concept of volunteerism in the Philippine Marine Corps started way back when 6 officers and 230 soldiers and sailors joined the "A" Company of the Philippine Naval Patrol under LTSG MANUEL GOMEZ amidst the reorganization of the Philippine military initiated by then Secretary of National Defense, Ramon Magsaysay in 1950 due to the rapid rise of power of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB) formerly Hukbong Bayan Laban sa mga Hapon (HUKBALAHAP) or Huks.

Two years earlier, in August 1948, the failure of President Elpidio Quirino's conciliation and amnesty program for the HMB led to open insurrection in the country.

By early 1950, the HMB grew from 500 to 20,000 fully-armed guerillas attributed mainly to the police's ineffectiveness particularly the Philippine Constabulary (which was then under the Philippine Army) in counterinsurgency, further aggravated by its long list of abuses in the country side. Defense Secretary Magsaysay, with the assistance of the Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) and his JUSMAG personal advisor and friend, Lt Col Edward Lansdale US Air Force, introduced changes to the strategy of the Philippine military against the Huks.

The government quickly initiated reforms within the Philippine military, which was then riddled with corruption, morale problem, poor leadership, and ineffective counterinsurgency campaign. Through the US Military Defense Assistance Program (MDAP), the Philippine military was able to add 28,000 troops to its inventory, increase individual soldier's salary, and provide better war equipment. Also, the Philippine military received assistance in doctrine,

organization, and training, which eventually changed the mindset of the World War II-Philippine military from conventional to unconventional thinking in the conduct of counterinsurgency.

Defense Secretary Magsaysay endorsed US soldiers to train the Philippine military on small unit operations contrary to the earlier operational strategy of the conventional Philippine military to saturate areas with troops known of Huks' shadow government, which eventually led to more military abuses and resulted to the populace's animosity towards the government. Thus, the Philippine military formed both the Philippine Marines and the Scout Rangers on 02 November and 25 November 1950 respectively. While the Scout Rangers were originally conceived as counter-guerilla unit specializing in deep reconnaissance, jungle warfare, and small-unit operations; the Philippine Marines were originally conceived as a hard-hitting seaborne force against pirates, smugglers, and lawless elements. It was not until 03 June 1951 when the Philippine Marines experienced their baptism of fire in Nueva Ecija that the government realized the need to expand the Philippine Marines to better address national crisis in the Philippine Archipelago with vast coastlines and 7,107 islands. And the rest is history.

The US Marines and soldiers who organized and trained "A" Company of the Philippine Naval Patrol under LTSG GOMEZ that eventually formed part of the Philippine Fleet's 1st Marine Battalion were fresh from their World War II stint in the Pacific, brimming with pride and confidence, exulting their warrior spirit to the volunteer soldiers and

sailors of "A" Company for defeating the once impregnable Japanese Imperial Army.

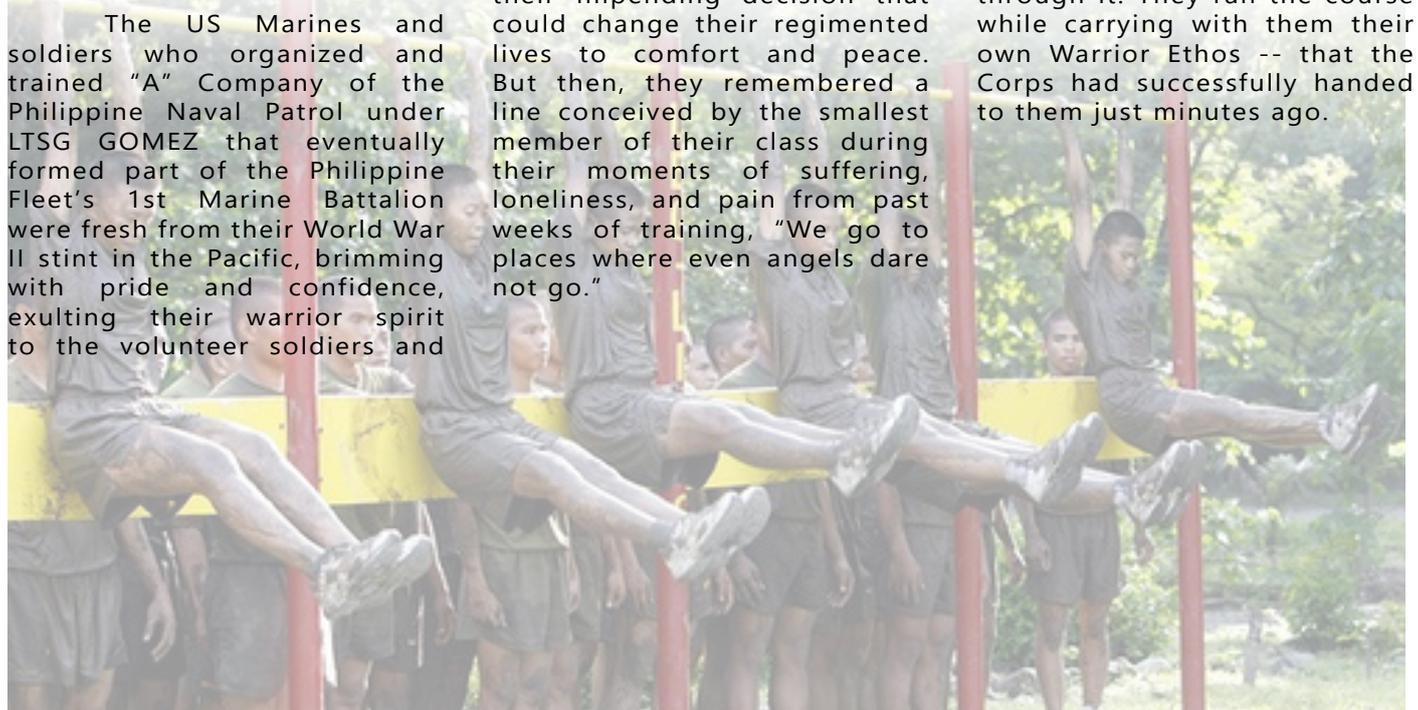
The US Marines who trained "A" Company inculcated and extended to the first Philippine Marines their Warrior Ethos learned from their existence since 10 November 1775 to that day when "A" Company was formed. This was the reason why until today, the Philippine Marine Corps closely associated itself with the US Marine Corps tenets and doctrines even adopting most of the USMC's core values, battle colors, and mottos such as "Semper Fidelis," "The few, the proud," "First to fight," "Once a Marine, always a Marine," "Uncommon Valor," "Marine Birthday," and many others. The Philippine Marines since its conception carried these mottos and tenets and significantly participated in all the major battles of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, earning countless stories of gallantry and heroism.

These were the very reasons why the two Marines were soaked from rain water and sweat and lying on that road in Ternate, Cavite 17 years ago. Were they ready to live far away from home, broken up by intense moments of fear, conflict, and violence? They thought that no amount of mottos and maxims borrowed from the United States Marine Corps can reverse their impending decision that could change their regimented lives to comfort and peace. But then, they remembered a line conceived by the smallest member of their class during their moments of suffering, loneliness, and pain from past weeks of training, "We go to places where even angels dare not go."

The quote spoke of something larger than pride, confidence, reputation, and labels. It spoke of self-sacrifice and of selflessness. It spoke of that distinct courage to endure adversity and being able to go through hell when no one can. They thought that that probably is the true meaning of becoming a Philippine Marine, a sacrifice for others – for love ones, for countrymen, and for the nation. These things probably were on the minds of the 6 officers and 230 enlisted men who volunteered to the "A" Company of the Philippine Naval Patrol. And all the other Marines after them who chose to live a life of hardship, of sacrifice – all for the love of God, country, and people.

Where even angels dare not go... that is why the Philippine Marines are deployed to the most dangerous places in the country, pitted against the most ruthless enemies of the state, dropped at the center of nature's wrath, and placed upfront against foreign threats of the country's sovereignty. And the Corps will always gladly volunteer to it.

The two Marines picked their selves up and ran towards the end of their escape and evasion course knowing that the misery they were experiencing that time was only an ordeal of their initiation for only a few people has the privilege to go through it. They ran the course while carrying with them their own Warrior Ethos -- that the Corps had successfully handed to them just minutes ago.





# National Security in an Emerging International Systems

By: BGEN MARTIN G. VILLASAN AFP

The impact of globalization and intertwined financial markets will increase a nation's capability to develop "soft" (economic) and "hard" (military) power, but limit the effective use of both types of power.

Globalization in its many facets and intertwined financial markets generally created a borderless global society in terms of emerging technologies, international trade and commerce, and information sharing and fusion.

On one hand, emerging technologies yield modernization in transportation and communications, and thus an "ever-increasing capacity for and efficiency of how people and things move and communicate."<sup>1</sup> This physical mobility and electronic link interconnected people among different nations and their connectivity brought about enhanced interaction and even closer personal contact in the people's daily transactions all around the world.

On the other hand, international trade and commerce opened up markets for goods and capital flow from one nation to another and created a day-to-day interdependence among nations resulting from movements of economic forces. This realization of interdependence in economic activities foster closer cooperation among nations, as each realizes that trade and commerce are not purely confined in domestic environment anymore. An economy with a global outlook is essential if a nation strongly desires commercial activities to have greater impact on one's economic growth.

Furthermore, information sharing and fusion diffused knowledge and new ideas. No nation has a monopoly of intellect, wisdom, and talents and each of these nations has come to realization that more knowledge and ideas are derived from sharing and fusion, rather, than its confinement or isolation. In this regard, further advancement is made feasible

because of greater contribution of ideas from wide variety of sources.

As a result, the aforementioned impacts of globalization and intertwined financial markets "increase economic interdependence [of states], raise the costs of conflict



or war, and therefore lead to more peaceful relations among states."<sup>2</sup> Societies integrate into systems of other societies, ways of living merge and people learn to blend with other cultures with greater ease, newly-found convenience and comfort change daily living and events. As other regions have varying degrees of effect on other regions, both worlds realize

<sup>1</sup>Colin Stief, *Globalization: An Overview of Globalization and Its Positive and Negative Aspects*, About.com. Geography, [www.globalization.htm](http://www.globalization.htm), May 5, 2010, (accessed 02 Nov 2010).

<sup>2</sup>Sukma, Rizal and K.S. Nathan, *Globalization and Defence in the Asia-Pacific: Globalization's impact on threat perception and defence postures in Southeast Asia: two views*, ed. Geoffrey Till, Emrys Chew and Joshua Ho, (NY:Routledge: NY, 2009), p. 90.

the significant existence of the other. Furthermore, according to Stief, "Governments are able to better work together towards common goals now that there is an advantage in cooperation, an improved ability to interact and coordinate, and a global awareness of issues."<sup>3</sup>

The ever-increasing economic interdependence and growth of states, as brought about by globalization and intertwined financial markets then increases a nation's capability to develop "soft" power because the increase in level of interdependence enables a nation to leverage on economic forces and resources it has control over and which greatly affects the cooperation. On the other hand, nations which may be more on the receiving end of the economic scale further realize the opportunity cost if they deviate from the cooperation. Thus, they submit to other nations which have a more stable and powerful economies because those in the receiving end cannot afford to forego the general societal benefits from the cooperation and interdependence.

Successively, economic growth necessitates security in order to sustain it, and thus it is an enabler for a nation's capability to develop its hard power as well because, according to Till, et. al., "rising needs and capabilities among nations do contain the seeds not only of competition, but of rivalry and war as well."<sup>4</sup> Hard power supplements a nation's economic interest in the global stage.

On the other hand, as globalization and intertwined financial markets strengthen cooperation and alliance, they limit the effective use of both

types of power (Soft and Hard). As economic interdependence is fostered and opportunities increase, any nation attempting to use or is using soft power on another enables the target to rely on other economies as substitutes, in order to negate the imposition or effect of soft power. Furthermore, any nation attempting to use hard power on another also enables the target to rely on other nations in the circle of economic cooperation, to strengthen alliance against an aggressive nation attempting to use or is using hard power. In this circumstance, hard power may not even come into play anymore because, according to Streusand, "The Baron de Montesquieu contended that 'peace is the natural effect of trade. Two nations which traffic with each other become reciprocally dependent"<sup>5</sup>, and thus implying that relationship is mutual and one nation has to co-exist with the other, without threat of destruction from the other.

However, it is worthy to be aware that clusters of regional characteristics and economic status of nations bear significantly on one nation's ability to cooperate or compete with each other in the global arena and are contributory factors on soft and hard power. A nation classified under HIDC and another under LDC may tend to have a different perspective on and application of soft and hard power because of varying strata of economic power and evolving national interest.

The aforementioned perspective on the matters arising from the question is viewed from the present perspective of globalization trend. However, in as much as globalization is still on-going, a work in progress as it is in this ever-changing environment, uncertainties lie ahead. Globalization and intertwined financial markets bear on economics and, in the future, along the continuum of globalization, demand for



resources in order to sustain economic activities may spark conflict. As globalization increases pace, the ever-expanding global market may lead to another contention that "globalization can generate economic rivalry among states... over scarce natural resources, which again often threatens to spill over into military conflict."<sup>6</sup> In this regard, it is not remote to have a change in perspective as regards the context of soft and hard power and adapt to future realities which may turn cooperation into competition among nations, in view of respective evolving National Interests and National Security Strategy.

<sup>3</sup>Stief (accessed 02 Nov 2010).

<sup>4</sup>Brian M. Pollins, *Globalization and Defence in the Asia-Pacific Globalization and armed conflict among nations*, (NY:Routledge: NY, 2009,) p. 27.

<sup>5</sup>Douglas E. Streusand, *Globalization and Maritime Power :Geopolitics versus Globalization*, ed. Sam J. Tangredi, (Washington: NDU Press, 2002), p. 44.

<sup>6</sup>Sukma and Nathan, p. 90.

# Towards an Ideal Philippine Marine Corps Reserve Force

By: LTCOL Roberto Emmanuel T Feliciano PN(M)(MNSA)(R)  
LTCOL Angelica D Andrada PN(M)(MNSA)(R)

The Reserve Component of the Philippine Marine Corps currently consists of the three (3) Marine Reserve Brigades as provided for in the current Table of Organization (TO) of the Philippine Navy. These include the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) ("7MBDE") in Luzon, the 8th Marine Brigade (Reserve) ("8MBDE") in the Visayas, and the 9th Marine Brigade (Reserve) ("9MBDE"). It also includes the Marine Affiliated Reserve Units.

In this regard, this article seeks to briefly examine the PMC Reserve Component and identify certain elements or features which may be considered as desirable and contributing to an ideal Reserve Component for the Corps. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list or treatment but a broad overview.

## Background:

The current Reserve Force of the AFP dates back to the 1930s, when the national defense policy of the Philippines was originally shaped by the United States, which had administered it as a Commonwealth early in the 20th century. In 1935 the National Defense Act (Commonwealth Act No. 1) was promulgated, which provided for a Citizen Armed Force. This served as the foundation of the AFP and was carried over into the current 1987 Philippine Constitution, with the following provision in Section 4, Article XVI, that:

**"The Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be composed of a citizen armed force which shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law. It shall keep a regular force necessary for the security of the State"**

## Related Legislation

The current rationale for the employment of the Reserve

Component emanates from Republic Act RA No. 7077 also known as the Reservist Act, which under Section 7 (Mission) is as follows:

### ARTICLE III MISSION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCE

**SECTION 7. Mission – The Mission of the Citizen Armed Force, alternately referred to as the Reserve Force, is to provide the base for the expansion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the event of war, invasion or rebellion; to assist in relief and rescue during disaster or calamities; to assist in socioeconomic development; and to assist in the operation and maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of the overall mission.**

The above highlights the principal mission of the Reserve Component, to augment / integrate with the Regular Component. Historically, the capabilities of the Marine Corps have been enhanced by the Reserve Component. Following the activation of the Philippine Marines in 1950, the Reserve Marksmanship and Sniper Detachment (RMSD) was activated in 1969 as the first Reserve unit of the Philippine Marines to provide marksmanship training and sniper capability. The RMSD was eventually absorbed and converted into a regular unit and became what is currently the Marine Scout Sniper School of the Special Operations School. It was subsequently followed by the 4th Marine Brigade (Reserve) (4MBDE) which was activated in 22 October 1996 as the first Brigade-sized Marine Reserve unit. Following the approval of the AFP Reserve Force Table of Organization (TO),

the Philippine Navy activated three (3) Marine Brigades (Reserve) in 2010.

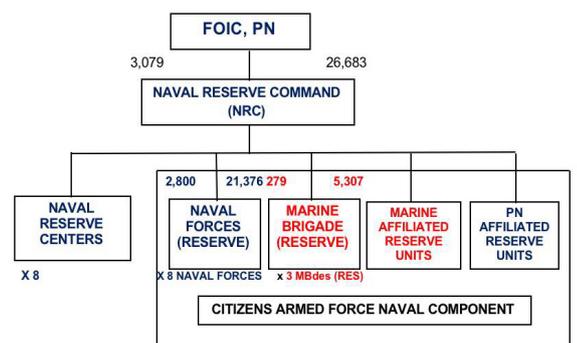
## Command Relationship:

Under SOP No. 01 dated March 2010, the three (3) Marine Reserve Brigades are under the operational control (OPCON) of the PMC, according to 7 (c), as follows:

### 7. PROCEDURES:

(c) The three Marine Brigades (Reserve) shall be organized in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao area and be directly under the administrative control of the NRCen NCR, NRCen EV, and NRCen WM respectively and shall be operationally controlled by the Philippine Marine Corps.

However, under the current command relationship being exercised, the PMC Reserve Component is in fact separate from the PMC, since it is housed under the Naval Reserve Command ("NRC") of the Philippine Navy, which exercises administrative and operational control over 7MBDE and all Marine Reserve units. The relationship may be seen in the current PN Reserve Table of Organization (TO), as follows:



**Table 1. Current PN Reserve Table of Organization (TO)**

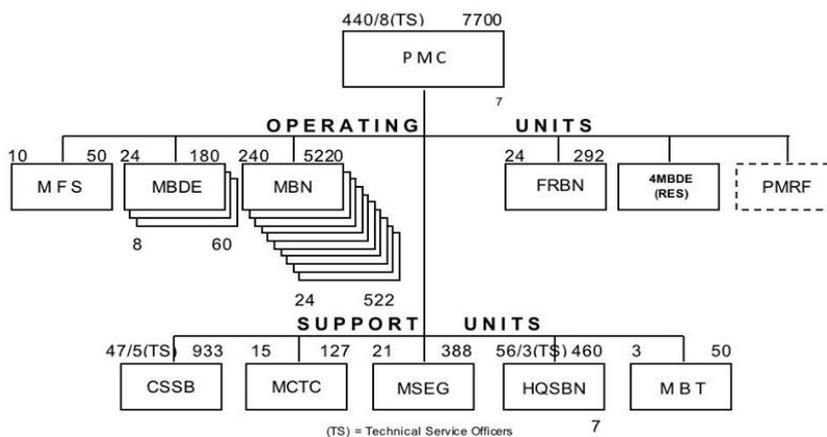
For the PMC to directly access its own Reserve Component, PMC has to go through the NRC, and the respective Naval Reserve Centers to whom the Marine Reserve Brigades report. Such a long and unnecessarily cumbersome process defeats the purpose of a capable Reserve Component, and needlessly inhibits it from responding as quickly as possible to contingencies. In contrast, MC-9 is conveniently situated only five (5) meters from the 7MBDE office in MBRB.

These circumstances stand in stark contrast to the majority of Marine Corps organizations worldwide, such as the United States Marine Corps ("USMC") and the British Corps of Royal Marines, who exercise direct administrative and operational control over their respective Reserve Components. Such a direct relationship between Marines facilitates the high state of readiness which is demanded of a capable Reserve Force, in order to immediately integrate and augment its Regular Component and provide the required combat power and sustainability of Marine Forces. It is for this reason that ideally, the Marine Reserve Component should be under the direct Operational and Administrative Control of the PMC. Such a command relationship may be seen in the following Table of Organization (TO):

(Reserve) ("4MBDE") was OPCON to PMC. This relationship may be seen in the following PMC TO which dates from 2002.

## RECOMMENDATION:

Place the Marine Reserve Component under the direct



**Table 3: Philippine Marine Corps Provisional Series Table of Organization and Equipment CY-2002 (PMC PS TOE 1-2002-00)**

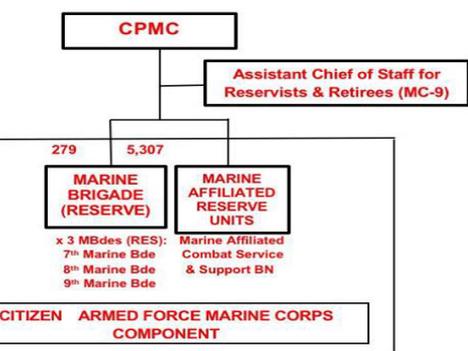
Under the current command relationship being practiced, the PN through NRC has the responsibility to organize, train, equip, and maintain the PMC Reserve Component. However, for various reasons, the PN is unable to provide the necessary fundamental training and equipment for Marine Reservists. As a consequence, most of the Marine Reservists lack the basic core and functional competencies required of the most fundamental member of the Marine Corps, the Marine Rifleman. The lack of such competencies seriously inhibits the ability of the Marine Reserve Component to effectively carry out its core mandate to effectively and efficiently integrate with and augment the PMC Regular Component.

These deficiencies have strategic significance given that the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides for the AFP as a Citizen Armed Force that is to be comprised primarily of Reservists. As a consequence, under the current command relationship, the Marine Reserve Component is unable to grow and develop in support of the PMC because it is under the administrative and operational control of the Philippine Navy.

administrative and operational control of the Philippine Marine Corps.

Based on the above considerations, a corrected command relationship represents the most significant first step towards an ideal Marine Reserve Component. If undertaken, such a command relationship would make possible subsequent steps towards the realization of an ideal Marine Reserve Component. The Marine Reserve Component must be integral to the PMC and under its direct administrative and operational control. Such a direct command relationship would enable the PMC to directly plan, program, and develop its Reserve Component and provide it with the needed training, core competencies, and equipment for a more robust, capable and cohesive Total Force of Regular and Reserve Marines.

In closing, the authors humbly present in good faith the findings and recommendation in this article, not as comprehensive in scope, but rather as preliminary steps to address areas where improvements may have the most visible and substantive effect in the immediate and long term for an ideal Reserve Component of the Philippine Marine Corps, as part of its Total Force. It is in this spirit that the research was undertaken and in which the article was written.



**Table 2. Proposed PMC Reserve Table of Organization**

Such a direct relation between the Marine Reserve Component and the PMC did in fact exist several years ago when the 4th Marine Brigade



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
 Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7304**

Introduced by:  
**REPRESENTATIVES PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ and RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS**

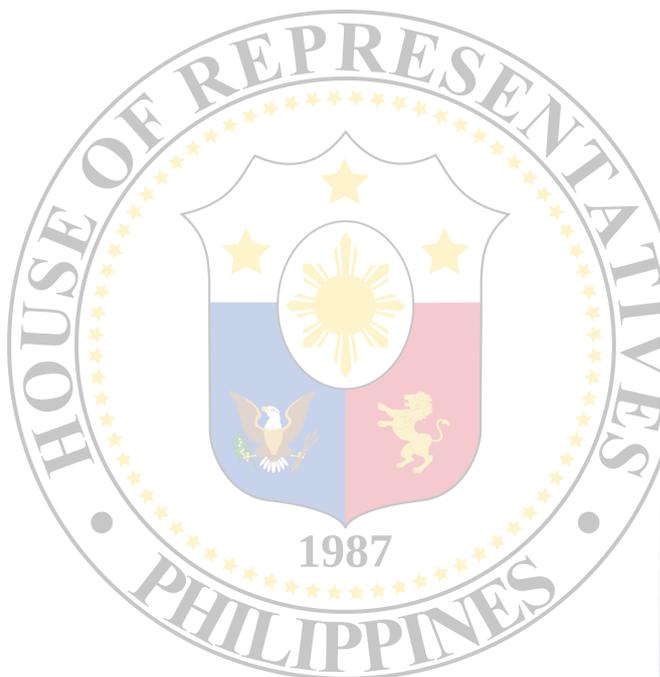
**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWER AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

**SECTION. 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Marine Corps Act".

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - In accordance with Section 3, Article II of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that provides "the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") shall be composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law", it is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and order.

**SEC. 3. Establishment.** - The Philippine Marine Corps, ("PMC"), is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character; distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.



The PMC shall include ground combat, combat support, combat service support, aviation component, and such other units as may be necessary for the pursuit of its mandate.

**SEC. 4. Powers and Functions.** - The PMC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To conduct combined arms operations in the littoral battle space and beyond under the AFP;
- (b) To coordinate with the other branches of service in developing various phases of amphibious operations, which pertain to the tactics, techniques, and procedures with the necessary equipment employed by landing forces and that of a joint maneuver force;
- (c) To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop, deploy, and supervise the PMC Reserve Force ("PMCRF") for the purpose of assisting the PMC in carrying out its functions;
- (d) To formulate and develop doctrines, concepts, systems, policies, procedures, strategies, tactics, and techniques for operations peculiar to the Marines;
- (e) To develop its capabilities for seaborne maneuvers; sustain maneuver ashore; and multinational cooperation and engagement that is amphibious in character, multi-role in nature, a seaborne arms force with on-shore defense capability possessing combined arms with supporting air components ensuring its capability and effectiveness as a major combatant in the protection of the islands of the Philippine Archipelago;
- (f) To establish bases and facilities for the realization of its operational potential;
- (g) To utilize Information Technology, and technological innovations to advance the pursuit of its mandate;
- (h) To deploy such forces necessary for strategic defense under the Joint Defense Force and for employment of operational commands;
- (i) To deploy forces for disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the AFP;
- (j) To deploy forces in support to the law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties and responsibilities in implementing the laws of the land;

- 1 (k) To perform such other functions that may be necessary in  
 2 the attainment of the objectives of this Act; and  
 3 (l) To determine its requirements which shall be addressed  
 4 by a fiscal allocation and modernization efforts of the  
 5 Department of National Defense ("DND").

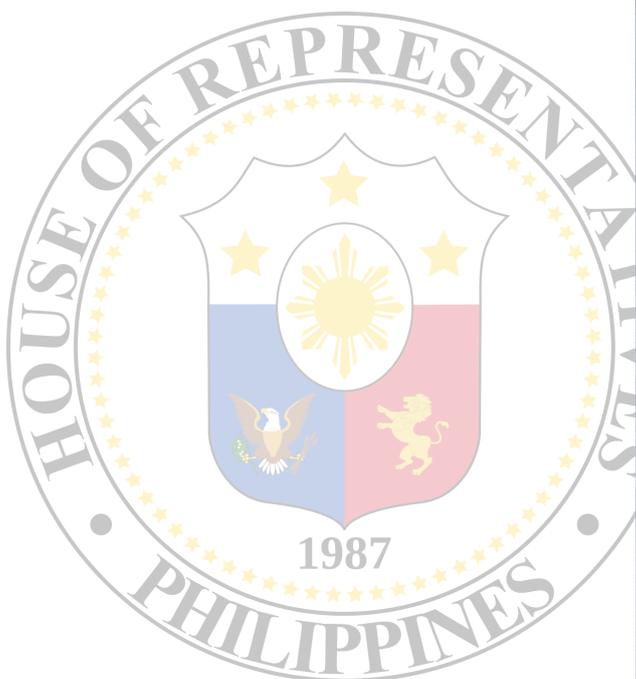
6  
 7 **SEC. 5. Philippine Marine Corps Bases and Facilities.** - To carry  
 8 out the powers and functions of the PMC and the enhancement of its  
 9 capabilities, three (3) PMC Headquarters, shall be established—one (1)  
 10 in Luzon, one (1) in Visayas, and one (1) in Mindanao. The PMC  
 11 Headquarters in Mindanao shall serve as the National Headquarters of  
 12 the PMC. All of the PMC Headquarters shall be in strategic locations  
 13 where it can sustain its deployed forces given both spectrums of war  
 14 condition. A Marine Division may be established to effectively respond  
 15 to the needs of the operational commands based on its distinct  
 16 characteristics and operating concept, as may deem necessary.

17  
 18 **SEC. 6. PMC Commandant.** - The Commandant shall head the  
 19 PMC, and shall carry the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commandant  
 20 shall be directly appointed by the President from among its Marine  
 21 Corps Generals, upon the recommendation of the AFP Chief-of-Staff and  
 22 the Secretary of the DND.

23  
 24 **SEC. 7. Creation of the Marine Reserve Component.** - The PMC  
 25 shall maintain, supervise, develop and train the PMC Reservists as a  
 26 reserve force under the direct control and supervision of the PMC  
 27 Commandant and shall assist the PMC in the conduct of efforts on force  
 28 development as a whole.

29  
 30 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Commandant  
 31 of the PMC shall promulgate rules and regulations for the  
 32 implementation of this Act, as well as the provision of acts, decrees, and  
 33 orders, related to the implementation of the PMC functions, to be  
 34 approved by the President and the Commander-in-Chief, with the  
 35 conformity of the Secretary of DND, and recommendation by the Chief-  
 36 of-Staff of the AFP.

37  
 38 **SEC. 9. Appropriations.** - The PMC Commandant shall  
 39 immediately prepare the necessary guidelines to cover the establishment  
 40 of the PMC as a service branch of the AFP, the initial funding of which



1 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PMC  
 2 and, thereafter, in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

3  
 4 **SEC. 10. Transitory Provisions.** -The incumbent two-star officer,  
 5 Major General, shall be the Acting PMC Commandant, pending the  
 6 appointment by the President. Likewise, the existing organizational  
 7 structure of the PMC shall be followed until new rules and regulations  
 8 have been promulgated, and approved by the President.

9  
 10 Further, this Act shall not diminish, reduce, or remove the existing  
 11 benefits and privileges of PMC personnel under existing laws, rules, and  
 12 regulations.

13  
 14 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason, any provision of  
 15 this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid; such parts not affected  
 16 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

17  
 18 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders,  
 19 rules and regulations and other issuance's or parts thereof which are  
 20 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
 21 accordingly.

22  
 23 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
 24 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers  
 25 of general circulation.

26  
 27 **Approved,**  
 28  
 29 **SEC. 1. Declaration of Policy.** - In accordance with Section 3,  
 30 Article III of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian  
 31 authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that  
 32 provides "the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") shall be  
 33 composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training  
 34 and serve, as may be provided by law", it is hereby declared the policy  
 35 of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the  
 36 continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and  
 37 order.

38  
 39 **SEC. 3. Establishment.** - The Philippine Marine Corps, ("PMC"),  
 40 hereby established as an armed uniformed service, any ambiguous in  
 41 character, distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the  
 42 Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.



Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7304**



Introduced by:  
**REPRESENTATIVES PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ and RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS**

**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING  
ITS POWER AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippine Marine Corps ("PMC") was created through the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") General Orders nr. 319 s. 1950 issued by then Secretary of Defense Ramon Magsaysay to respond to the security threat of the emerging *Hukbalahap* insurgency in the mountains and plains of Central Luzon up to the present ISIS-inspired revolution right in the heartland of Marawi, Mindanao.

Although the PMC has lived up to its mandate, its lack of Charter has caused institutional challenges, including but not limited to fiscal and organizational restrictions. Despite these, the PMC has provided seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains.

The men and women of the PMC have served and responded to the call of duty gallantly. During the 1960s, the PMC spearheaded the conduct of strategic maneuvers against the *Hukbalahap*. In the 80s, they were the force that upheld the stability of the country during EDSA people power. In the 90s, the lawlessness of terrorist groups down South was curtailed by the PMC. In the 2000s, they were one of the main players in the fall of Camp Abu Bakr. On that same decade, they were the force combating

VNA/GBR/knd

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**Philippine Tae Kwon Do National Team**

Stand with the MARINES  
Pass House Bill 7304 and Senate Bill 1731



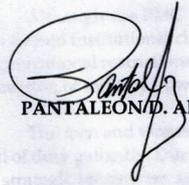
terrorists in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. During the 2010s, a decade known for natural disasters, the vigorous men and women of the PMC are everywhere to alleviate the impact of disasters to the Filipino people.

Much blood has been spilled, lessons learned and experience gained in the service of the Filipino people with the loss of 1,437 men since 1950. In the 2017 Battle of Marawi alone, 36 brave souls gave their lives for the motherland. These men and women might be few but they remain proud, always faithful in their sworn honored duty to country for the last 67 years.

This bill seeks to establish the PMC as a branch of service, distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy under the AFP. This aims to institutionalize PMC as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character, and a maneuver force in readiness of AFP that includes seaborne, land, combat, and support services, among others.

The archipelagic nature of the Philippines necessitates the imperative need for an expanded, rapidly deployable amphibious maneuver force primarily mandated to conduct seaborne, sustained on-shore, multinational cooperation and engagements for the protection of its 7,641 islands and islets, the communities and the people therein, as well as respond to the needs of a nation prone to natural disasters.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ

  
RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS

VNA/GBR/knd

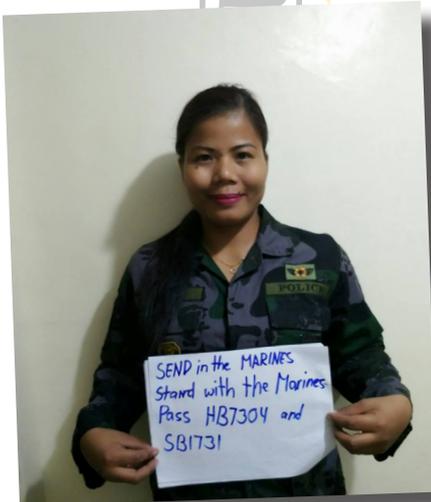
Page 2 of 2



### MANILA BULLETIN

Manila, Philippines

#### Support for bill separating Marines from Navy snowballs in Congress



SENATE  
S.B. No. 1731

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWER AND  
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The archipelagic makeup of the Philippines necessitates the need for a comprehensive yet rapidly deployable amphibious force primarily mandated to conduct both sea-borne and on-shore tactical operations to protect the country's territories, communities, and inhabitants. Duty requires that this group shall be competent in responding to extraordinary exigencies and developing multinational cooperation and engagements to preserve peace and order within the country.

Under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Orders No. 319, s. 1950 the Philippine Marine Corps was initially established to extinguish insurgent threats in the post-war decade. Beyond successfully accomplishing their missions the Philippine Marine Corps remain steadfast to the call of duty being instrumental in improving the welfare of all Filipinos and protecting the stability of the country.

Philippine history is replete with significant campaigns executed by the Philippine Marine Corps. During the 1950s, the Marines spearheaded the conduct of strategic maneuvers against the HUKBALAHAP. In the following decade, the Marines were in most parts of Luzon neutralizing communist-terrorists. While in the 1980s, the group skillfully maintained order despite the country's political turmoil. The Marines also curtailed the lawlessness of extremist groups in Mindanao from 1980s to 2000s. At present, the Philippine Marine Corps are not only challenged by growing criminality, but are also tested by worsening natural disasters that harm the people in the same manner.

The Philippine Marine Corps might be few but they remain proud and always faithful in their sworn honored duty to the country. While the Constitution mandates that there be an Army, an Air Force and a Navy in the AFP, the Philippine Marine Corps, since its establishment, remains an integral part of the nation's psyche—a force in readiness.



Despite the lack of a charter, the Philippine Marine Corps has provided seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains. It is clear that the Marines will be empowered to further perform their duty with the proper legislation to provide such mandate.

Hence, this Bill seeks to provide a Charter that would institutionalize the Philippine Marine Corps—a branch of service distinct, autonomous and yet complementary to the Army, Air Force and Navy under the AFP—and, in the process, generate an initiative to guarantee peace, safety, and order of the entire Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWER AND  
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

SONNY ANGARA

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Marine Corps Act".

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP to ensure national development in order to preserve peace and order.

**SEC. 3. Establishment.** — The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character, distinct, autonomous but complementary to the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1731

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWER AND  
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Marine Corps Act".

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** — In accordance with Section 3, Article II of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that provides "the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall be composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law," it is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and order.

**SEC. 3. Establishment.** — The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character, distinct, autonomous but complementary to the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.

The PMC shall include ground combat, combat support, combat service support, aviation component, find such other units as may be necessary for the pursuit of its mandate.

**SEC. 4. Powers and Functions.** — The PMC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To conduct combined arms operations in the littoral battle space and beyond under the AFP;
- (b) To coordinate with the other branches of service in developing various phases of amphibious operations, which pertain to the tactics, techniques, and procedures with the necessary equipment employed by landing forces and that of a joint maneuver force;
- (c) To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop, deploy, and supervise the PMC Reserve Force (PMCRF) for the purpose of assisting the PMC in carrying out its functions;
- (d) To formulate and develop doctrines, concepts, systems, policies, procedures, strategies, tactics, and techniques for operations peculiar to the Marines;
- (e) To develop its capabilities for sea-borne maneuvers, sustain maneuver ashore, and multinational cooperation and engagement that is amphibious in character, multi-role in nature, a sea-borne arms force with on-shore defense capability possessing combined arms with supporting air components ensuring its capability and effectiveness as a major combatant in the protection of the islands of the Philippine Archipelago;
- (f) To deploy such forces necessary for strategic defense under the Joint Defense Force and for employment of operational commands;
- (g) To deploy forces for disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the AFP;
- (h) To deploy forces in support to the law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties and responsibilities in implementing the laws of the land;
- (i) To perform such other functions that may be necessary in the attainment of the objectives of this Act and

To determine its requirements which shall be addressed by a fiscal allocation and modernization efforts of the Department of National Defense ("DND").

**SEC. 5. Philippine Marine Corps Bases and Facilities.** — To carry out the powers and functions of the PMC and the enhancement of its capabilities, three (3) PMC Headquarters shall be established—one (1) in Luzon, one (1) in Visayas, and one (1) in Mindanao. The PMC Headquarters in Mindanao shall serve as the National Headquarters of the PMC. All of the PMC Headquarters shall be in strategic locations where it can sustain its deployed forces, given both spectrums of war condition. A Marine Division may be established to effectively respond to the needs of the operations; commands based on its distinct characteristics and operating concept, as may deem necessary.

**SEC. 6. PMC Commandant.** — The Commandant shall head the PMC, and shall carry the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commandant shall be directly appointed by the President from among its Marine Corps Generals, upon the recommendation of the AFP Chief-of-Staff and the Secretary of the DND.

**SEC. 7. Creation of the Marine Reserve Component.** — The PMC shall maintain, supervise, develop and train the PMC Reservists as a reserve force under the direct control and supervision of the PMC Commandant and shall assist the PMC in the conduct of efforts on force development as a whole.

**SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Commandant of the PMC shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act, as well as the provision of acts, decrees, and orders, related to the implementation of the PMC functions, to be approved by the President and the Commander-in-Chief, with the conformity of the Secretary of DND, and recommendation by the Chief-of-Staff of the AFP.

**SEC. 9. Appropriations.** — The PMC Commandant shall immediately prepare the necessary guidelines to confer the establishment of the PMC as a service branch of the AFP, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PMC and, thereafter, in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 10. Transitory Provisions.** — The incumbent two-star officer, Major General, shall be the Acting PMC Commandant, pending the appointment by the President. Likewise, the existing organizational structure of the PMC shall be followed until new rules and regulations have been promulgated, and approved by the President.

Further, this Act shall not diminish, reduce, or remove the existing benefits and privileges of PMC personnel under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

**SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** — If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 13. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Marine Corps ("PMC") was organized on November 7, 1950 under the orders of former President Elpidio Quirino and former Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay through the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") General Orders nr. 319 s. 1950. The PMC was first organized to respond to the security threat of the emerging HukbalaHap insurgency in Central Luzon up to Marawi, Mindanao.

Despite experiencing institutional challenges, including but not limited to fiscal and organizational restrictions, due the absence of its own Charter, the PMC has lived up to its mandate in providing amphibious and rapid deployment units and seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains.

Over the years, the men and women of the PMC have gallantly served and responded to the call of duty. In the 1960s, the PMC spearheaded the strategic maneuvers against the HukbalaHap. In the 1980s, they upheld stability of the country during the EDSA People Power. In the 2000s, the PMC were the one of the main forces in the fall of Camp Abu Bakr as well as combating terrorist in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. In the 2010s, the valiant men and women of the

PMC also provided assistance to many Filipino people affected by natural disasters.

The numerous engagements of the PMC in protecting and fighting for our country with honor and pride have given their lives for the motherland since the 1950s. In respect of their service, it is adjudgatory that the establishment of a charter that would institutionalize the PMC to alleviate them of institutional challenges.

The archipelagic geography of the Philippines calls for the need for an expanded, rapidly deployable amphibious maneuver force mandated to conduct seaborne, sustained on-shore, multinational cooperation and engagement for the protection of the country and its people along with response to the country's need in times of natural disaster.

This bill seeks to establish the PMC as an autonomous and distinct branch of service that is complementary to the Army, Air Force, and Navy under the AFP. This bill also seeks to institutionalize the PMC as an amphibious armed uniform service and a maneuver force in readiness of the AFP that among others include seaborne, land, combat, and support services.

In view foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay Senator

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Marine Corps Act".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - In accordance with Section 3, Article II of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that provides "the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") shall be composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law", it is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and order.

Sec. 3. Establishment. - The Philippine Marine Corps, ("PMC"), is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character; distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.

1 The PMC shall include ground combat, combat support, combat service support, 2 aviation component, and such other units as may be necessary for the pursuit of 3 its mandate.

4 Sec. 4. Powers and Functions. - The PMC shall have the following powers 5 and functions:

- (a) To conduct combined arms operations in the littoral battle space and beyond under the AFP;
(b) To coordinate with the other branches of service in developing various phases of amphibious operations, which pertain to the tactics, techniques, and procedures with the necessary equipment employed by landing forces and that of a joint maneuver force;
(c) To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop, deploy, and supervise the PMC Reserve Force ("PMCRF") for the purpose of assisting the PMC in carrying out its functions;
(d) To formulate and develop doctrines, concepts, systems, policies, procedures, strategies, tactics, and techniques for operations peculiar to the Marines;
(e) To develop its capabilities for seaborne maneuvers; sustain maneuver ashore; and multinational cooperation and engagement that is amphibious in character, multi-role in nature, a seaborne arms force with on-shore defense capability possessing combined arms with supporting air components ensuring its capability and effectiveness as a major combatant in the protection of the islands of the Philippine Archipelago;
(f) To establish bases and facilities for the realization of its operational potential;
(g) To utilize Information Technology, and technological innovations to advance the pursuit of its mandate;

- (h) To deploy such forces necessary for strategic defense under the Joint Defense Force and for employment of operational commands;
(i) To deploy forces for disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the AFP;
(j) To deploy forces in support to the law enforcement agencies in the performance of their duties and responsibilities in implementing the laws of the land;
(k) To perform such other functions that may be necessary in the attainment of the objectives of this Act; and
(l) To determine its requirements which shall be addressed by a fiscal allocation and modernization efforts of the Department of National Defense ("DND").

Sec. 5. Philippine Marine Corps Bases and Facilities. - To carry out the powers and functions of the PMC and the enhancement of its capabilities, three (3) PMC Headquarters, shall be established - one (1) in Luzon, one (1) in Visayas, and (1) in Mindanao. The PMC Headquarters in Mindanao shall serve as the National Headquarters of the PMC. All of the PMC Headquarters shall be in strategic locations where it can sustain its deployed forces given both spectrums of war condition. A Marine Division may be established to effectively respond to the needs of the operational commands based on its distinct characteristics and operating concept, as may deem necessary.

Sec. 6. PMC Commandant. - The Commandant shall head the PMC, and shall carry the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commandant shall be directly appointed by the President from among its Marine Corps General, upon the recommendation of the AFP Chief-of-Staff and the Secretary of the DND.

Sec. 7. Creation of the Marine Reserve Component. - The PMC shall maintain, supervise, develop and train the PMC Reservists as a reserve force under the direct control and supervision of the PMC Commandant and shall assist the PMC in the conduct of efforts on force development as a whole.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Commandant of the PMC shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act, as well as the provisions of acts, decrees, and orders, related to the implementation of the PMC functions, to be approved by the President and the Commander-in-Chief, with the conformity of the Secretary of DND, and recommendation by the Chief-of-Staff of the AFP.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. - The PMC Commandant shall immediately prepare the necessary guidelines to cover the establishment of the PMC as a service branch of the AFP, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PMC and, thereafter, in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 10. Transitory Provisions. - The incumbent two-star officer, Major General, shall be the Acting PMC Commandant, pending the appointment by the President. Likewise, the existing organizational structure of the PMC shall be followed until new rules and regulations have been promulgated, and approved by the President.

Further, this Act shall not diminish, reduce, or remove the existing benefits and privileges of PMC personnel under existing laws, rules and regulations.

Sec. 11. Separability Clause. - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid; such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuance's or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 13. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

EXPLANATORY NOTE
The Philippine Marine Corps ("PMC") was organized on November 7, 1950 under the orders of former President Elpidio Quirino and former Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay through the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") General Orders nr. 319 s. 1950. The PMC was first organized to respond to the security threat of the emerging HukbalaHap insurgency in Central Luzon up to Marawi, Mindanao.
Despite experiencing institutional challenges, including but not limited to fiscal and organizational restrictions, due the absence of its own Charter, the PMC has lived up to its mandate in providing amphibious and rapid deployment units and seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains.
Over the years, the men and women of the PMC have gallantly served and responded to the call of duty. In the 1960s, the PMC spearheaded the strategic maneuvers against the HukbalaHap. In the 1980s, they upheld stability of the country during the EDSA People Power. In the 2000s, the PMC were the one of the main forces in the fall of Camp Abu Bakr as well as combating terrorist in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. In the 2010s, the valiant men and women of the

SENATE }  
S.B. No. 1748 }

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With more than 7,107 islands composing its archipelagic geography, the Philippines requires an extensive yet rapidly deployable amphibious force. The amphibious force must be able to conduct both seaborne and on-land operations, especially those that require unified transition between land and sea.

Under the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) General Orders No. 319, s.1950, the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) was initially established to combat insurgents in far-flung locations and has transformed into a military force sent for overseas deployment. As a highly specialized yet interdisciplinary force, they are tasked to protect the country's territories, communities, and populace, which they have ably accomplished as seen in their efforts in securing the Spratly Islands in 1971 and in combating separatist forces in Mindanao from the 1990s to the 2000s.

In the last few years, the PMC has seen a rise in war activity, the most recent of which being the Marawi Siege, an attack that was mounted by the Maute-Pro-Islamic State group in 2017. From the conflict, thirteen Marines<sup>1</sup> were killed in the battle for Marawi who are part of the 168 military death toll.<sup>2</sup> Amidst lacking a legislated charter, the PMC continues their service to the nation through their readiness to help and ongoing efforts to develop their skills and knowledge of amphibious warfare. Given their active duty to protect the country, it is only appropriate that the PMC is given not only recognition but also support for its efforts not only to maintain peace and order in the country but also to protect the territorial integrity of the Philippines.

Currently, the Constitution only mandates that there be an Army, Air Force, and a Navy in the AFP. However, given the country's archipelagic nature, the PMC has become an integral part of the AFP in bridging the forces between sea and land even with its status as a sub-unit of the Philippine Navy.

As such, the bill seeks to establish a Charter that will institutionalize the Philippine Marine Corps as a branch of the AFP. Under the Charter, the PMC will

<sup>1</sup> Reyes, J. Marine killed in Marawi was set to marry childhood sweetheart (<http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/12/17/marine-killed-in-marawi-was-set-to-marry-childhood-sweetheart>)  
<sup>2</sup> The Manila Times, 3 more soldiers added to list of dead from Marawi siege (<http://www.manilatimes.net/3->



operate distinctly, autonomously, and yet complementarily with the other branches of the AFP. Moving forward, the bill aims to generate an initiative to guarantee peace and security in the entire Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

SENATE }  
S.B. No. 1748 }

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Marine Corps Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - In accordance with Section 3, Article II of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that provides "the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall be composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training and serve, as may be provided by law", it is hereby declared the policy of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and order.

SECTION 3. *Establishment.* - The Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character, distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.

The PMC shall include ground combat, combat support, combat service support, aviation component, and such other units as may be necessary for the pursuit of its mandate.

The organizational and operational structures of the AFP shall be adjusted

SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions.* - The PMC shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To conduct combined arms operations in the littoral battle space and beyond under the AFP;
- (b) To coordinate with the other branches of service in developing various phases of amphibious operations, which pertain to the tactics, techniques, and procedures with the necessary equipment employed by landing forces and that of a joint maneuver force;
- (c) To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop, deploy, and supervise the PMC Reserve Force (PMCRF) for the purpose of assisting the PMC in carrying out its functions;
- (d) To formulate and develop doctrines, concepts, systems, policies, procedures, strategies, tactics, and techniques for operations peculiar to the Marines;
- (e) To develop its capabilities for seaborne maneuvers; sustain maneuver ashore; and multinational cooperation and engagement that is amphibious in character, multi-role in nature, a seaborne arms force with on-shore defense capability possessing combined arms with supporting air components ensuring its capability and effectiveness as a major combatant in the protection of the islands of the Philippine Archipelago;
- (f) To deploy such forces necessary for strategic defense under the Joint Defense Force and for employment of operational commands;
- (g) To deploy forces for disaster response, relief, and rehabilitation efforts of the AFP;
- (h) To deploy forces in their duties and responsibilities in implementing the laws of the land;
- (i) To perform such other functions that may be necessary in the attainment of the objectives of this Act; and
- (j) To determine its requirements which shall be addressed by a fiscal allocation and modernization efforts of the Department of National Defense (DND).

SEC. 5. *Philippine Marine Corps Bases and Facilities.* - To carry out the powers and functions of the PMC and the enhancement of its capabilities, three (3) PMC Headquarters shall be established—one (1) in Luzon, one (1) in Visayas, and one (1) in Mindanao. The PMC Headquarters in Mindanao shall serve as the National

1 Headquarters of the PMC. All of the PMC Headquarters shall be in strategic locations  
2 where it can sustain its deployed forces given both spectrums of war condition. A  
3 Marine Division may be established to effectively respond to the needs of the  
4 operational commands based on its distinct characteristics and operating concepts, as  
5 this may be deemed necessary.

6 SEC. 6. *PMC Commandant.* - The Commandant shall head the PMC, and shall  
7 carry the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commandant shall be directly appointed by  
8 the President from among its Marine Corps Generals, upon the recommendation of the  
9 AFP Chief-of-Staff and the Secretary of the DND.

10 SEC. 7. *Creation of the Marine Reserve Component.* - The PMC shall  
11 maintain, supervise, develop and train the PMC Reservists as a reserve force under the  
12 direct control and supervision of the PMC Commandant and shall assist the PMC in the  
13 conduct of efforts on force development as a whole.

14 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Commandant of the PMC  
15 shall promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act, as well as the  
16 provision of acts, decrees, and orders, related to the implementation of the PMC  
17 functions, for approval by the President and the Commander-in-Chief, upon the  
18 recommendation of the Chief-of-Staff of the AFP and the conformity of the Secretary of the  
19 DND.

20 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The PMC Commandant shall immediately prepare  
21 the necessary guidelines to cover the establishment of the PMC as a service branch of  
22 the AFP, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current year's  
23 appropriations of the PMC and, thereafter, in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

24 SEC. 10. *Transitory Provisions.* - The incumbent two-star officer Major General  
25 shall be the Acting PMC Commandant, pending the appointment by the President.  
26 Likewise, the existing organizational structure of the PMC shall be followed until new  
27 rules and regulations have been promulgated, and approved by the President.

28 Further, this Act shall not diminish, reduce, or remove the existing benefits and  
29 privileges of PMC personnel under existing laws, rules, and regulations.

1 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason any provision of this Act is  
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full  
3 force and effect.

4 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
5 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are  
6 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved:



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 16TH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF UPI, MAGUINDANAO HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL APRIL 11, 2018 AT 9:30 A.M

**Present:**

Hon. Alexis M. Platon ..... Presiding Officer  
 Hon. Wilfredo T. Ibañez..... PO Protomopre  
 Hon. Datu Michael C. Sinsuat - I ..... Member  
 Hon. Nurodin S. Musa ..... Member  
 Hon. Maria Elena II T. Castro ..... Member  
 Hon. Ariel M. Layson ..... Member (ABC Pres.)  
 Hon. Nestor R. Tiban ..... Member (IP Rep.)

**Absent:**

Hon. Myrna Lou C. de Vera ..... Member  
 Hon. Rodolyn P. Andres ..... Member  
 Hon. Janito M. Rabelo, Sr. .... Member  
 Hon. Raul M. Gardose..... Member

**RESOLUTION NO.30**  
 Series 2018

**"RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 7304 AND SENATE BILL NO. 1731"**

**WHEREAS**, the House of Representative sponsored House Bill no. 7304 authored by Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvares and Deputy Speaker Rodolfo C. Parreñas advocating the separations of the Philippine Marine Corps from the Philippine Navy, thereby making it the 4<sup>th</sup> Major Unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the House of the Senate supported the House Bill through Senate Bill No. 1731 sponsored by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara;

**WHEREAS**, this action is needed to strengthen the Philippine Marine Corp performance in the achievement of their Vision/Mission;

**NOW THEREFORE**, considering premises presented and on Joint Sponsorship, it was;

**RESOLVED** as it hereby **RESOLVED** that the Local Government Unit of Upi through the Sanggunian Bayan of Upi strongly support the passage of House Bill No. 7304 authored by Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvares and Deputy Speaker Rodolfo C. Parreñas, supported by Senate Bill No. 1731 authored by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara known as "Philippine Marine Corps Act";



Republic of the Philippines  
**MUNICIPALITY OF UPI**  
 PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO



UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: April 11, 2018

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above stated resolution.



ATTESTED:   
**JOSE B. BOGLOSA**  
 Secretary to the Sanggunian

**ALEXIS M. PLATON**  
 Presiding Officer

APPROVED:   
**RAMON A. PIANG, JR.**  
 Municipal Mayor



**Office of the Sangguniang Bayan**

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF DATU BLAH SINSUAT, MAGUINDANAO HELD AT THE SB SESSION HALL, PURA, DATU BLAH SINSUAT, MAGUINDANAO, ON APRIL 16, 2018 AT 9:00 A.M.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 16<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2018

**PRESENT:**

HON. DATUTATO U. MUSTAPHA - Vice mayor/Presiding Officer  
 HON. DATU MOHAMAD I. SINSUAT, JR. - Councilor  
 HON. DATU ALLAN M. SINSUAT - Councilor  
 HON. SARAH M. MAMA - Councilor  
 HON. BAINOR L. KARON - Councilor  
 HON. DATUDIDO D. TABUNAWAY - Councilor  
 HON. ROSENDO P. MARTINEZ - Councilor  
 HON. RUBIA A. KUGA - Councilor  
 HON. KHAMID M. AMINULLA - Councilor  
 HON. ROBERTO LUGASING - Councilor (IP)

**ABSENT:**

HON. DATU BOBSTEEL I. SINSUAT - Councilor (ABC)

**RESOLUTION NO. 52**  
 Series of 2018

"A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED SEPARATION OF COMMAND/ UNIT OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINES FROM THE PHILIPPINE NAVY"

WHEREAS, in recognition and appreciation to the 6 months battle of the MARINES in their heroic achievement to defeat the ISIS inspired group of MAUTE at Marawi City;

WHEREAS, the very satisfactorily services in the performance of duties and responsibilities of the Marines to serve and protect the people of Datu Blah T. Sinsuat;

WHEREAS, separate command of Marines will facilitate, focus and enhance more services and programs for the people;

WHEREAS, after due deliberation, the August Body hereby expressed its support to the Philippine Marines to separate their unit from the Philippine Navy and hence, to be a regular branch of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);



WHEREFORE, on motion of the Honorable Datu Allan M. Sinsuat, Chairman of the Committee on Peace and Order and unanimously seconded by all Sangguniang Bayan members present, it was;

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to adopt resolution SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED SEPARATION OF COMMAND/ UNIT OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINES FROM THE PHILIPPINE NAVY;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to send copy of this resolution to the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, The MARINES and other concerned offices for information and appropriate action.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: 16<sup>th</sup> Day of April 2018

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

*Ramil U. Pinguaman*  
**RAMIL U. PINGUAMAN**  
 Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:  
*Datutato U. Mustapha*  
**DATUTATO U. MUSTAPHA, ALHAJ**  
 Vice-Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:  
*Raida Tomawis Sinsuat*  
**RAIDA TOMAWIS SINSUAT, ALHAJ**  
 Municipal Mayor



**EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF KALAMANSIG, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT, HELD IN ITS SESSION HALL ON APRIL 10, 2018 AT 9:00 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING**

PRESENT: Hon. Rolando P. Garcia ... Municipal Vice Mayor / Pres. Officer  
 Hon. Ronnie T. Daniel ... SB Member  
 Hon. Angelito B. Buenafior Sr. ... SB Member  
 Hon. Alimudin G. Diarol ... SB Member  
 Hon. Pendatun G. Mastura ... SB Member  
 Hon. Guillermo D. Tognon ... SB Member  
 Hon. Efren B. Tee Jr. ... SB Member  
 Hon. Dexter B. Posadas ... SB Member  
 Hon. Ferdinand S. Posadas ... SB Member  
 Hon. Kampain I. Abay ... Ex-Officio / ABC President  
 Hon. Datu Eddie A. Gugo ... Ex-Officio / IPMR

ABSENT: NONE

**RESOLUTION NO. 23, s. 2018**

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING FULL SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF KALAMANSIG, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT TO HOUSE BILL NO. 7304 AND SENATE BILL NO. 1731 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS ACT"**

**WHEREAS**, the deployment of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), since its deployment in the municipality of Kalamansig has already made invaluable contribution to the preservation of its peace and order;

**WHEREAS**, the PMC has always been the LGU's omnipresent and reliable partner in responding to emergencies and natural calamities, in the conduct of civic-oriented programs and projects aimed at addressing the social issues identified as root causes of insurgency and in almost all of its important endeavors;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Unit of Kalamansig bears witness on how the elements of the PMC have consistently demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and discipline in the conduct of their duty which enable them to gain the trust and confidence of the people and maintain the prestigious image closely associated with the Corps;

**WHEREAS**, with its well-established partnership with the PMC, the Local Government Unit of Kalamansig has become aware of the latter's fiscal, logistical and organizational issues caused by being a mere component of the Philippine Navy;

**WHEREAS**, in our fast changing times, the internal and external security concerns confronting our people have completely evolved creating a greater need for more dynamic, non-traditional and ingenious approaches;

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 7304 and Senate Bill 1731 which seek to establish a Philippine Marine Corps Service separate and autonomous from the Philippine Navy yet complementary to the other branches of Armed Forces of the Philippines is a strategic means of eliminating institutional barriers in order for the PMC to effectively address new and emerging threats which are, if not possible, difficult to attain under the present

**WHEREAS**, as a frontline agency of the government which fully understands the dynamics of the Peace and Order on the ground, the Local Government Unit of Kalamansig strongly welcomes the proposal and believes on the objectives it seek to attain;

**NOW THEREFORE**, after thorough deliberation and on joint sponsorship of all members present, be it

**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved to adopt a resolution expressing full support of the Local Government Unit of Kalamansig, Province of Sultan Kudarat to House Bill No. 7304 and Senate Bill no. 1731 otherwise known as the "Philippine Marine Corps Act";

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that copies of this resolution be furnished the Philippine Marine Corps thru the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Brigade and the sponsors of the House Bill 7304 and Senate Bill 1731.

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2018.

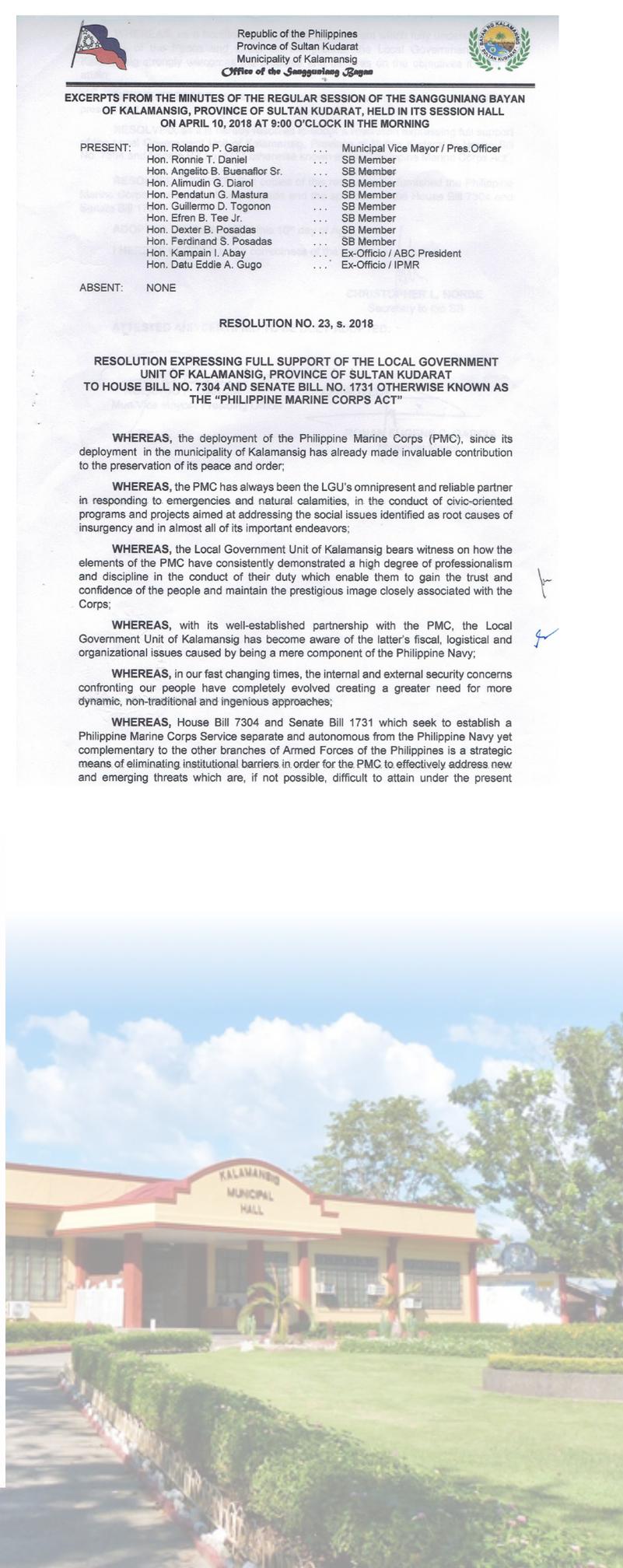
**I HEREBY CERTIFY** to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

**CHRISTOPHER L. NORBE**  
 Secretary to the SB

**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED TO BE DULY ADOPTED:**

**ROLANDO P. GARCIA**  
 Mun. Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

**APPROVED:**  
  
**RONAN EUGENE C. GARCIA**  
 Municipal Mayor



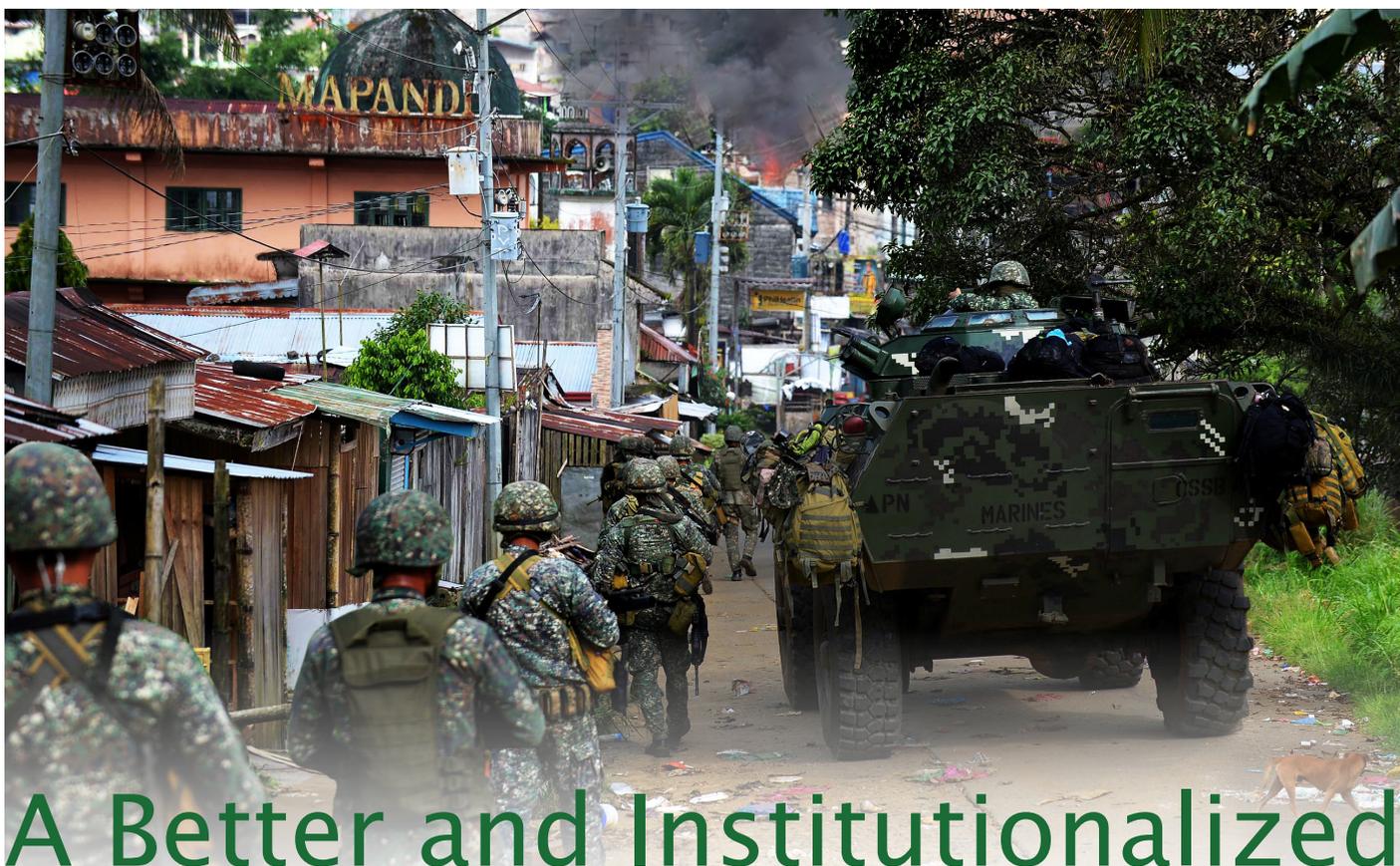


Marines in Ayungin Shoal Courtesy of Chiara Zambrano

Stand with the **MARINES**  
**Pass the Marine Corps Act of 2018**  
House Bill 7304 and Senate Bill 1731  
**No One Should Be Left Behind**

**#sendintheMARINES**





# A Better and Institutionalized Philippine Marine Corps

By: 2LT HARRY JOHN L OSABEL PN(M)

## Background

In the year 1950, during the height of the Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (HUKBALAHAP's) destabilization activities in the Philippines and the serious security threats that it demonstrated throughout the nation, the then Secretary of National Defense, Ramon Magsaysay ordered the organization of a Seaborne Striking Force especially trained in amphibious operations that could be easily deployed to combat the guerrillas in any spot of the archipelago. By virtue of the Armed Forces of the Philippines General Orders No. 319, a Marine Company as a unit of the Philippine Naval Patrol was organized known as "A" Company with 6 officers and 230 enlisted personnel.

## Philippine Marine Corps at Present

The "A" Company from its humble beginning expanded to become a battalion and

eventually transformed to what it is today. Over the numerous amphibious and ground operations conducted by the Philippine Marine Corps, there were many that marked not only in the Armed Forces of the Philippines but also in the entire country. The most recent of these was the Marawi Siege which started last May and was liberated in October 2017. The city was taken by the ISIS-inspired Maute Group led by the Maute brothers and Abu Sayyaf leader, Isnilon Hapilon. The Philippine Marine Corps, particularly the Marines Special Operations Group was among the first responders along with the line battalions and combat support assets to the call of duty. The Marine gallant warriors opened one of the strategic bridges, the Mapandi Bridge, which led to the advancement of the friendly Government forces who fought and defeated the said terrorist group and eventually paved way to Marawi Liberation.

At present the PMC is

organizationally developing to achieve its vision to become the AFP's Premier Force in Readiness and the Nation's Force of Choice. The PMC ethos of "Karangalan, Katungkulan at Kabayanihan" serve as guide to excellence in its amphibious force capability enhancement to protect the country's interest especially in internal and external security.

## An Autonomous Philippine Marine Corps

Since its creation, the Philippine Marine Corps has its umbilical cord connected to the Philippine Navy. Indeed, the PMC is relatively a small unit compared to the three major services of the AFP, but still it has crucial role in the accomplishment of the AFP mission. It is also continuously modernizing its seaborne warfighting capabilities to respond to any crisis specifically in littoral areas. The Marines provide seamless transition of military power between sea

and land domain. The PMC is primarily organized with three maneuver brigades and twelve battalions, the combat service and support in one brigade with five (5) combat support and service support battalions complementing the needs of the line units, and the MARSOG as special operations unit. The latter specializes in sea, air and land operations ranging from reconnaissance, close combat, demolition, intelligence and underwater operations. Furthermore, the PMC has its modernization program through force restructuring and organizational development, a concept of combined arms in response to tactical, operational and strategic level. The unit's capability, materiel and technology development and personnel's warfighting ethos have huge roles in honing the Corps as a hard-hitting force where it is known for more than six (6) decades.

To further enhance the PMC's capabilities, being autonomous is the factor. This autonomy means having control of its own programs for warfighting capability development and personnel career enhancement as an amphibious unit of the AFP. This autonomy from the Philippine Navy means further development of the two (2) without the PMC being "towed" by the Navy.

## Interdependency

The Philippines has 7,641 islands to protect from poachers, criminals, invaders, terrorists and other lawless elements that are threat to

national security. The concept of military operations in the Philippines as a maritime nation is mainly amphibious, combined arms and joint operations, thus the PMC like other branches of service in the AFP will always be interdependent. The specialization of the PMC as the amphibious force in littoral areas is always a great asset of the AFP, but it is recognized that to accomplish the overall mission to protect the archipelago from internal and external threats, the PMC is still complementary with the other branches of service especially the Philippine Navy. The umbilical cord that connects the two (2) will still exist specially in the conduct of seaborne warfare.

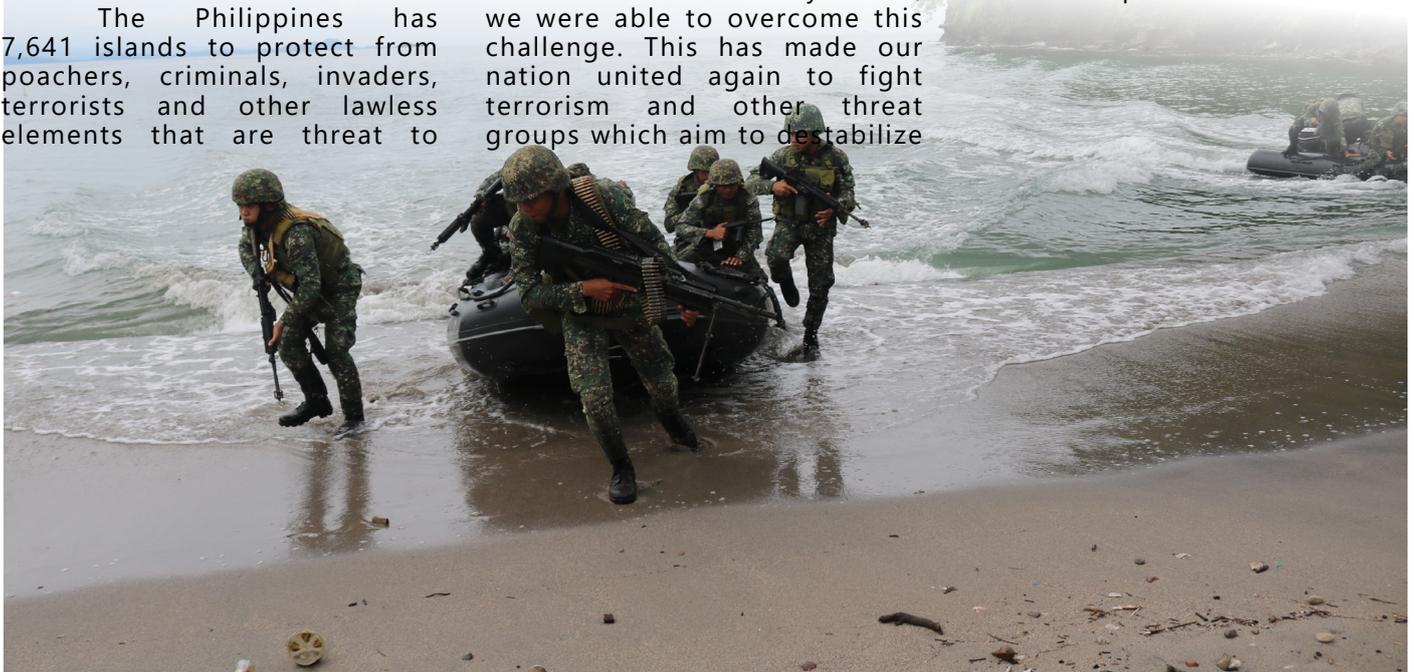
## PMC as 4th branch of Service

The AFP is strong enough to fight the threats made by the local terrorists in the country; however our nation is not isolated from the rest of the world. Our environment is forever changing, what is applicable today may not be valid tomorrow. The warfare today in the Philippine setting is not limited only to the NPA's and Abu Sayyaf Group. Recently, we even had experienced a devastating war that we have never imagined to happen. In the past few months, the world's eye was on us due to the crisis that we have experienced during Marawi Siege. Because of the team AFP along with the members of the security sector, we were able to overcome this challenge. This has made our nation united again to fight terrorism and other threat groups which aim to destabilize

our country's security.

Realizing the importance of the Philippine Marine Corps based from the Marawi experience and other crises that our country has gone through, the need to institutionalize it to strengthen the Armed Forces of the Philippines and national security has come to discussion. In March 2018, two (2) bills were filed to the senate and to the lower house. Senator Sonny Angara authored and filed Senate Bill 1731 and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Pantaleon Alvarez and Majority Floor Leader, Rodolfo Farinas proposed House Bill No. 7304 or the Philippine Marine Corps Act of 2018 in the congress to establish the Philippine Marine Corps as the 4th branch of service of the AFP and to define its power and functions.

This is a huge step to strengthen our national security. Institutionalizing the Corps will open doors of opportunities for growth and development not only on its file and ranks but also to the Philippine Navy and to the AFP as a whole. The Navy can now focus on its capability building to protect our waters within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and to address the eminent threats from our neighbouring countries. It may be hard at first. Birth pains are expected but the Corps is looking forward for the fruits of labor in the near future- a better and institutionalized Philippine Marine Corps.





# THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS BOARD OF ADVISERS

By: BENJAMIN I ESPIRITU, PhD, MNSA  
BGEN AFP (Res)

In August 2017, the Philippine Marine Corps added another milestone to its proud history when it organized and institutionalized the Philippine Marine Corps Board of Advisers (PMC BoA).

In his letter to the pioneer members of the BoA, the then Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps Major General Emmanuel Salamat (now Lieutenant General and Commander of the Northern Luzon Command), stated that “the Command recognizes the need and importance to have advisers from outside the organization to assist the Corps in achieving its mission.”

## Functions of the PMC BoA

The PMC BoA’s general function is advisory in nature. It has no authority over, or responsibility in, any operational decisions within the PMC. It has an oversight role and is not a manager of the PMC. Its specific functions are:

1. To advise and assist the PMC in identifying key priorities and strategic issues in accordance with the vision of the Corps and meeting the needs of the future PMC.
2. To provide insights to effectively and efficiently address the different organizational, op-

erational and national demands in order to ensure the relevance of the PMC as an organization.

3. To provide insights in aligning the PMC policies, plans, programs and strategies with the political, socio-economic, cultural and moral development needs of the organization
4. To advise on matters pertaining to the establishment of partnership, sustainment on external stakeholder’s engagement, increase cooperation and understanding of the public about the Philippine Marine Corps.
5. To assist and advise the Philippine Marine Corps in the management of its resources and other management strategies to ensure sustainment in the implementation of the present and future plans and programs of the Marine Corps.

## PMC BoA Organization

The PMC BoA is to be composed of 12 members with different fields of expertise. It has three committees: Committee on Ways and Means, Committee on Strategic Communications, and Committee on Plans and Programs.

The PMC BoA was formally launched last August 31 at the

HPMC Conference Room. House of Representatives Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez inducted the PMC BoA’s first members: Sen. Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara, Professor Clarita Carlos, BCDA President Vivencio Dizon, Dr. Benjamin Espiritu, Lieutenant General Rustico Guerrero (Ret), and Atty. Angelo Valencia. At the organizational meeting immediately following the oath-taking, Dr. Benjamin Espiritu was elected as Chairman and Lieutenant General Rustico Guerrero as Vice Chairman.

Early this year, Brigadier General Martin Villasan assumed as General Officer Steering Committee. Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno also became the newest BoA member.

## BoA Initiatives

The current initiatives of the BoA are giving advice and guidance on the autonomy of the Philippine Marine Corps, the establishment of the Philippine Marine Corps Foundation, the chronicling of the history and the production of a book about the PMC, securing a suitable location for the new headquarters of the PMC, a permanent PMC museum, and other strategic matters concerning the Corps.

# WHO'S WHO?

## BENJAMIN I. ESPIRITU, Ph.D.



**D**r. Benjamin Espiritu is a Certified Public Accountant, President of Risks, Opportunities Assessment and Management, (ROAM) Inc., President & CEO of Change Management International, Inc., Chairman and CEO of Ormin Realty Corporation, Chairman of Banco de Mindoro, Inc., Chairman and President of EC Ventures Corporation and heads several other private corporations and two family foundations. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Regents of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (University of the City of Manila), Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ospital ng Maynila (Hospital of Manila) Medical Center, Director of two publicly-listed corporations – Central Azucarera de Tarlac, Inc. and Dizon Copper Silver Mines, Inc., and of an insurance company – Intrastrata Assurance Corporation. He is likewise Chairman of the Board of Advisers of the Philippine Marine Corps

and President of the National Defense College of the Philippines Alumni Association, Inc.

He is a corporate governance practitioner, a government servant wherein he served as Provincial Governor of Oriental Mindoro during Cory Aquino's administration and an academe who served as the Dean of Far Eastern University – Makati, Chairman of the Accounting, Finance, Business and Governance Department of De La Salle University Graduate School of Business, Program Coordinator of the Doctor of Business Administration program, and Course Director of the Corporate Governance and Risk Management program. He teaches strategic management, corporate governance, public governance, finance, and accounting courses.

In the military, he is a Brigadier General (appointed effective December 21, 2013, confirmed by the Commission on Appointments on June 4, 2014) and former Commander of the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) which has the entire Luzon as its area of responsibility. Under his command, the 7th Marine Brigade was adjudged as the AFP Ready Reserve Unit of the Year for three consecutive years – 2015, 2014 and 2013 (Brigade/Wing Level) and Philippine Navy Reserve Unit of the Year also for six straight years

– 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012. Prior to this, he served as G-2 concurrent G-6 of the former 4th Marine Brigade.

Dr. Espiritu earned his Doctor of Philosophy major in Public Administration degree from the University of Santo Tomas (graduating Meritissimus/Excellent); Master in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines (Gold Medal-Leadership; Special Award-Academic Excellence; Special Award-Best Thesis); and Master of Business Administration from De La Salle University.

Among his awards include Most Outstanding Faculty Member of the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business; Most Outstanding Alumnus award, St. Antoninus of Florence Award (Outstanding Alumnus in the field of Public Administration) from the UST Graduate School and the UST Graduate School Alumni Association, Inc.; Outstanding Alumnus Award by the National Defense College of the Philippines and the National Defense College of the Philippines Alumni Association, Inc. in 2007, 2014 and 2017; Ulirang Ama Award in the field of education from the National Mother's Day & Father's Day Foundation, Inc., and the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Outstanding Graduate Award from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

## CLARITA R. CARLOS, PhD



**D**r. Clarita R. Carlos is a distinguished professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She is an expert in foreign and defense and security policy.

She was bestowed the Most Outstanding Teacher Award by the University of the Philippines. She was appointed Maximo Kalaw Professor of Peace and Environment and Elpidio Quirino Professor of International Relations.

She was the first woman and first civilian president of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP). She has written books on democratic deficit, electoral reform, political parties, population ageing, and bureaucratic reform.

Dr. Carlos holds a Doctorate and Masters in Political Science from UP Diliman. She was a Fulbright Visiting Fellow for Political Psychology at Cornell University, and was Fulbright Senior Scholar for Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis at UCLA.

Dr. Carlos has been teaching for the past 50 years at the University of the Philippines. Her areas of specialization include Politics of Environment, Philippine Defense Policy, Geopolitics, Foreign Policy / International Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Psychology (political Socialization, political violence, political leadership, terrorism) and Political Theory / Methodology.



## LT GEN RUSTICO O GUERRERO AFP(RET)

the successful stint as Commander of Marine Battalion Landing Team-2 from January 1998 to June 2000 while deployed in Sulu against the Abu Sayyaf Group and later in Central Mindanao during the AFP campaign against the MILF.

As a Colonel at General Headquarters, AFP, he worked on training policies and programs. At the Marine Corps Headquarters, he served as Chief of Personnel, Operations, and later as Chief of Staff.

He served as Superintendent of the Marine Corps Training Center (MCTC), the premier training institution of the Corps from October 2005 to August 2007 during which he instituted several reforms in its organization, training programs, doctrines and school facilities.

He obtained his military education here and abroad. He went through the Command and Staff Course at the Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia, USA where he also completed a Master of Military Studies with honors. He also completed in 2010 the Bridging Leadership Fellows Program for Muslim Communities at the Asian Institute of Management Team Energy Center for Bridging Societal Divides. His other specialization and enhancement trainings ranged from Counterterrorism, Human Rights, Personnel Management, Intelligence, Training, Joint Operations and Conflict

Management.

LT GEN GUERRERO has received numerous AFP Medals and Commendations for combat and non-combat accomplishments as well as Plaques, Certificates and Letters of Appreciations from different key leaders of the National, Regional and Local Government Agencies, Non-Government Organizations, the Religious and civilian entities.

In July 2007, he commanded the 1st Marine Brigade in Basilan until he transferred to Sulu in 2009 as the Commander of the Joint Task Force Comet where he orchestrated the neutralization of the notorious ASG Leader Albader Parad. Prior to his assumption as the Commander of Western Command, he was Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps from 24 August 2010 to 31 March 2013. He assumed as the Commander of Western Command on 03 April 2013 and became the Commander of Western Mindanao Command. He retired in 2015 after spending 38 years of honorable military service.

He is happily married to the former Maria Corazon Montiel and blessed with one daughter named Mia Rustiel.

At present he is elected as the Vice Chairman of the Philippine Marine Corps Board of Advisers.

**L**IEUTENANT GENERAL RUSTICO O GUERRERO AFP was born in Manila in 1959 and schooled in the Public School System. He entered the Philippine Military Academy on 01 April 1977 and graduated on 15 March 1981. After undergoing the Naval Officer's Qualification Course (NOQC), he volunteered to the Philippine Marine Corps and went through the different required positions from Platoon and Company Commander, Battalion Commander up to Brigade Commander in Mindanao, Palawan and Central Luzon.

As a Major working as a Staff at Headquarters Philippine Navy, he completed the Philippine Navy table of organization and equipment and a manual on all PN floating assets and amphibious vehicles.

His career is highlighted with



*Pag-angat ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino. Ito ang pangunahing adhikain ni Senador Sonny Angara sa bawat batas na kaniyang isinusulong.*

## SEN. SONNY ANGARA

**S**en. Sonny is known as among the most hardworking and productive members of Congress, having sponsored or authored more than 80 laws in his 14 years as legislator. Among his sponsored laws include wide access to education, opportunity to have a better quality of life for the Filipinos through sustainable jobs and decent working conditions, laws that empower women, improvement of healthcare services in the country and laws that push for greater support for Filipino athletes including athletes with disabilities.

In recognition of our soldiers' vital role in the protection of the country's integrity, he has been pushing for higher hazard pay for all AFP personnel, and for the increase in education, health and housing benefits for military dependents. He is also the principal author of the Magna Carta for the Philippine National Police that aims to strengthen existing rights and

raise the benefits and allowances of the police force and the bill that seeks to transform the Philippine Marine Corps into an independent service branch of the AFP.

Sen. Sonny represented Aurora province for three terms in the House of Representatives (2004-2013) before he was elected senator in 2013. He is proud of having been a part of Aurora province's transformation from a provincial backwater to a growing tourist, agribusiness and investment destination.

For his achievements, he was recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men for government service and legislation in 2010, and one of the Outstanding Manilans for public service in 2017.

Senator Angara is a graduate of Xavier School, the London School of Economics, the University of the



Philippines College of Law, and Harvard Law School. He has been a regular newspaper columnist, and a professor of Law. He is the team captain of the Senate Defenders, the official basketball team of the Senate.

## ATTY. ANGELO VALENCIA

Atty. Angelo Valencia or more commonly known as “Kuya Pultak” is a Senior Fellow for Agri-business of the Development Academy of the Philippines, a lawyer by training, operations man by discipline, community organizer by heart and a farmer by nature. He learned economics and business at the School of Economics, UP Diliman and graduated from the Ateneo School of Law JD Program.

As a Lawyer, he was Senior Corporate and Tax Counsel for the Lucio Tan Group of Companies handling Fortune Tobacco, Philippine Airlines, Tanduay, MacroAsia, Himmel Chemicals, Asia Brewery, Air Philippines, Allied Bank-PNB, Absolute Pan Asia Securities Corporation, Eton Properties and LandCom, Inc.

He was part of the Operations Team of Zebra Holdings, Inc and its subsidiaries taking part in its Sales, Logistics and Brand Integrity divisions. He became the Chief Operating Officer of the Mindanao Grain Processing Company, Inc. (MGPCI) and joined the Feedmix Specialist, Inc II. He is also part of Operations spearheading the Southern Luzon Corridor, thru the POP –ART management system, tilapia raising and production in the lakeside communities of Talisay,

Laurel, Agoncillo and San Nicolas, Batangas as well as for Bicol. He is also involved in the Support Operations of Foster Foods Inc., Fisher Farms, Premium Feeds, Ramen Santouka and Katsusora Restaurants.

His service for the community started when he organized the Oplan Pultak para sa Mt. Pulag which started the School Up in the Clouds project for the Indigenous Kalanguya Community, Kabayan, Benguet. The said initiative eventually led to the organization of Klasrums ng Pag-asa, with more or less 80 classrooms have been built, rehabilitated, empowered in mostly indigenous and/or conflict areas in the Provinces of Benguet, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Palawan, Campostela, Batangas, Kalinga, Isabela and Negros Oriental.

He merged the advocacy and the legal practice and opened up Sed Lex Tax and Legal Advisory Group, a boutique firm in the Bonifacio Global Business Center where 15%-20% of what they make funnels back to fund social empowerment initiatives.

His education and livelihood initiatives received various awards and recognition from different units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, local government units in Sulu, VTawi-



Tawi Benguet, Batangas, Palawan, Isabela as well as the schools and communities where the initiative was shared in Bayanihan style and have been featured by the Tri-Media – ABS-CBN, GMA 7, CNN, CNN Philippines, Channel 2, 700 Club and Alagang Kapatid for Television, for print by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror, Rappler Philippines, Yahoo SQ and Positively Filipino.

## VIVENCIO B DIZON

**PRESIDENT AND CEO, Bases Conversion and Development Authority**

**CHAIRMAN, Subic-Clark Alliance for Development**

**VICE CHAIRMAN, Clark International Airport Corporation**

**BCDA REPRESENTATIVE, Clark International Airport Corporation**

**MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.**

**MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Bonifacio Estates Services Corp.**

**MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, Bonifacio Global City Estates Assn.**

Vivencio Dizon is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA). Prior to his holding the executive positions in BCDA, he was a Consultant of then Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano; Undersecretary for Political Affairs of the Office of the President; and Chief of Staff of the Office of Senator Edgardo Angara. He was also an assistant professor of Economics at the De La Salle University. He obtained his degrees in Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Management of Financial Institutions from the De La Salle University. He was also a Chevening Scholarship Awardee in 1998 and obtained his Master in Science in Applied Development Studies from the University of Reading in United Kingdom.



# BENJAMIN ESTOISTA DIOKNO

**B**enjamin Estoista Diokno (born March 31, 1948) is the current Secretary of Budget and Management of the Philippines under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte. He held the same position under President Joseph Estrada, from July 1998 until Estrada's ouster in January 2001. Diokno also served as Undersecretary for Budget Operations at the Department of Budget and Management, from 1986 to



1991, during the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

During the Aquino administration, Diokno provided technical assistance to several major reforms such as the design of the 1986 Tax Reform Program, which simplified income tax and introduced the value-added tax (VAT), and the 1991 Local Government Code of the Philippines.

During the Estrada administration, Diokno initiated and instituted several reforms that would enhance transparency and improve the efficiency of the delivery of government services. The first major reform instituted was the "what you see is what you get" or WYSWIG policy that is a simplified system of fund release for the General Appropriations Act (GAA). This allowed agency heads to immediately plan and contract out projects by just looking at the GAA, which is available in print and at the DBM website, without waiting for the issuance of an allotment authority. Diokno initiated the reform of the government procurement system (GPS) through the adoption of rapidly improving information and communications technology. He secured technical assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to help the GPS develop an element system along the lines of the Canadian model. By August 1999, the DBM had two documents necessary to initiate reforms in public procurement. In early 2000, Diokno and USAID successfully concluded a substantial technical assistance program for the DBM's budget reform programs, which now included procurement reform. Other budget reforms instituted by Diokno concerned procedures for payment of accounts payable and terminal leave/ retirement gratuity benefits. The release of cash allocation were programmed and uploaded to the department's website while payments were made direct to the bank accounts of specific contractor.

Diokno finished his bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of the Philippines

(1968), and earned his master's degree in Public Administration (1970) and Economics (1974) from the same university. He also holds a Master of Arts in Political Economy (1976) from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA and a Ph.D. in Economics (1981) from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, USA.

He is Professor Emeritus of the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

He served as Fiscal Adviser to the Philippine Senate. He also served as Chairman and CEO of the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) and Chairman of the Local Water Utilities Administration. He was also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (City University of Manila).

In his third tour of duty as Budget Secretary, he intends to pursue an expansionary fiscal policy to finance investments in human capital development and public infrastructure. In addition, he seeks for the passage of a Budget Reform Bill to ensure the compliance of future budgets with the pertinent laws of the land. He also aims to re-organize and professionalize the bureaucracy with a Government Rightsizing Act.

He writes a column for Business World, Southeast Asia's first daily business newspaper.

Source: [http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin\\_Diokno&ved=0ahUKEwiBhOzGwu3aAhUBu48KHR38CyEQFggcMAA&usq=AOvVaw0vqBm5vcQ2pwcGUFLtKDU](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Diokno&ved=0ahUKEwiBhOzGwu3aAhUBu48KHR38CyEQFggcMAA&usq=AOvVaw0vqBm5vcQ2pwcGUFLtKDU)

#sendintheMARINES  
#standwiththeMARINES



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 [mandirigmangmarino2017@yahoo.com](https://www.facebook.com/mandirigmangmarino2017)