

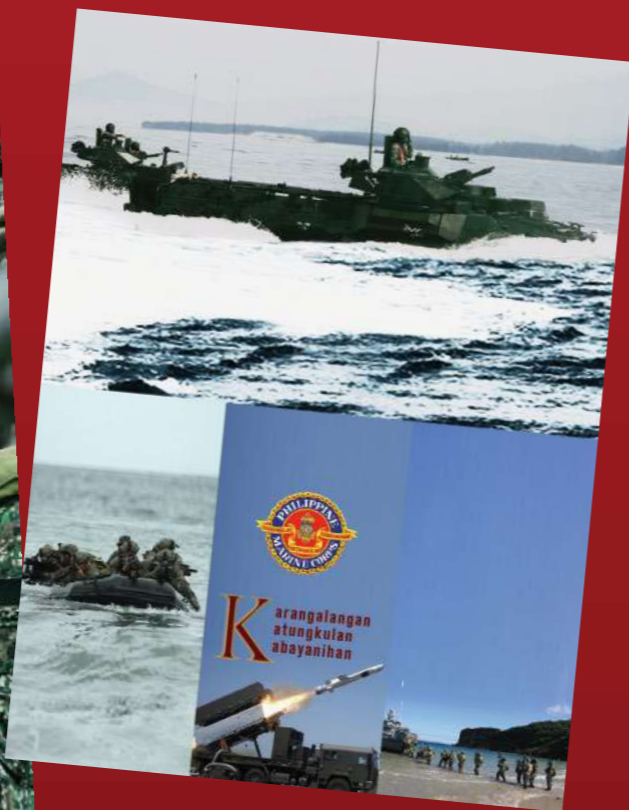
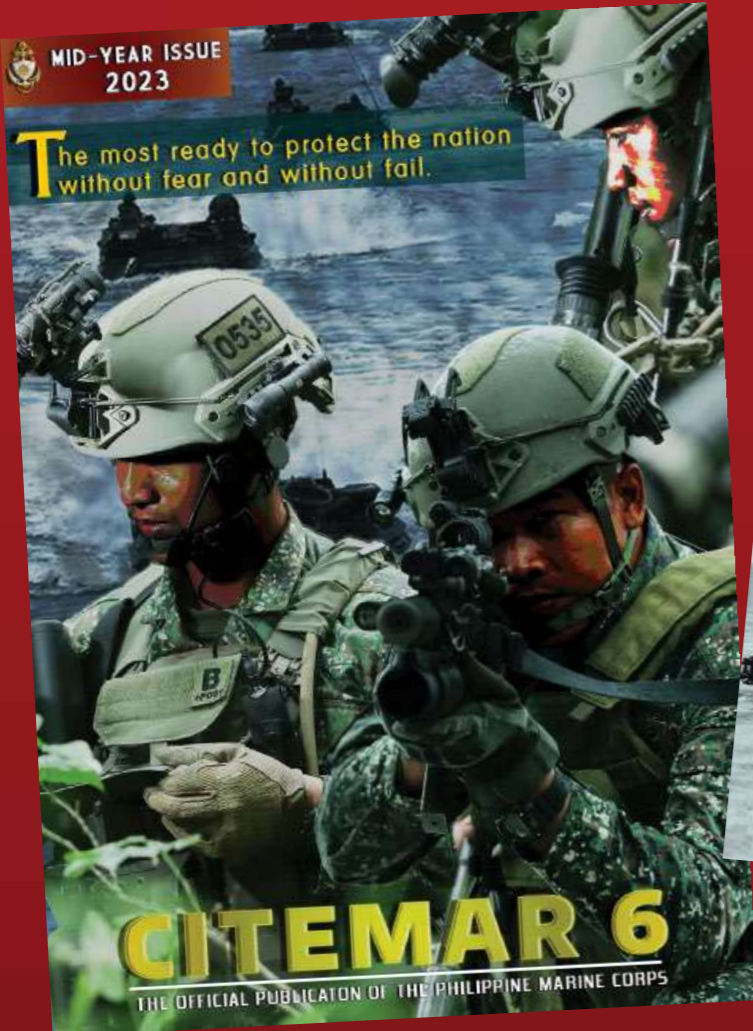


MID-YEAR ISSUE
2023

The most ready to protect the nation
without fear and without fail.

CITEMAR 6

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS



About the Cover

Marines are trained to think independently, act aggressively with speed and initiative, and leverage cultural understanding and sensitivity. We thrive in the chaos and unpredictability of the environments we operate in. We are dedicated in defending and protecting the people, country, and God.

We, the Marines, constantly enhance and advance our capabilities to a higher level of expertise and competence as we carry out our mission, give our all, and go to great lengths even if it means risking our lives.

Your Philippine Marine Corps is more than proud to serve our country as the Most Ready to protect the Nation without fear and without fail.



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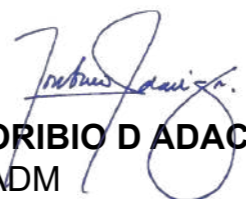
Message from the
FLAG OFFICER IN COMMAND
Philippine Navy

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the Philippine Marine Corps for releasing this new edition of CITEMAR 6. This comes at a no better time than now when the Corps has a new Commandant in MGen Arturo G Rojas PN(M), who will definitely steer the institution to greater heights.

As your 40th Flag Officer In Command, I am proud of your accomplishments and success stories that are highlighted in this publication. The Philippine Navy is pleased that you have consistently embodied the true meaning of warrior spirit, teamwork, and discipline over the years. You have contributed to the success of the Philippine Navy's mission as we operate and grow as a dependable force at sea.

May this publication inspire the rest of the Corps to continue demonstrating excellence while we are strengthening our posture, developing new capabilities, and deepening our alliances. It is important to share these stories, narratives, and ideas to raise awareness, encourage support, and build a stronger Philippine Navy as we make our oath to defend the high seas and secure our future.

Thank you for contributing to the Philippine Navy's mission accomplishments.


TORIBIO D ADACI JR
VADM PN



Message from the
COMMANDANT
Philippine Marine Corps

As the 36th Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, it is my great honor and pride to present to you this mid-year edition of CITEMAR6 that offers stories of bravery, hope, commitment, and triumph of our Marines.

Marines are truly a different breed of warriors. While we are trained for war, we endeavor to forge peace. While people see us as transients in one place, we pull together our resources to make a lasting impact in the communities. While we are small in numbers, we are teeming with partners who give us their trust and confidence at all times. The pages in this CITEMAR6 clearly tell.

There is no doubt that the Philippine Marine Corps is in interesting times as we transform into a highly capable amphibious force in readiness for archipelagic defense. With more capability developments underway, we anticipate our marine operating forces to be properly equipped to carry out the missions especially in an evolving and complex security environment.

As we move forward, the Corps strive to be the Most Ready force of the Armed Forces, as we Modernize the force, Optimize use of resources, Sustain best practices and lessons learned, Train harder, Readiness high, Excellence (ethos, fighting spirit, intellectual nimbleness), Agile and flexible force, Disciplined and dedicated professionals, and Your trusted and respected partner in nation building.

I commend the people behind this publication for all their diligence in writing, putting together, and finalizing this edition. It would not have been possible without everyone's support from the contributors to the hard-working editors. Thank you for making the Philippine Marine Corps the best!


ARTURO G ROJAS
MGEN PN(M)



Message from the
COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

Over the past years, the Philippine Marine Corps has laid a promising foundation for improving current readiness. With right attitude and dedication to duty, we are able to uphold our “Marine Brand” as representative of the best in soldiery through our exemplary discipline that is well appreciated by other branches of service. We have learned to adapt on the ever-changing environment as a war fighting institution by modernizing our mindsets and capabilities.

Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of every Marines to uphold the legacy of our forefathers to this proud organization. We must never cease to seek improvement to meet the high standards and expectations of this organization. With strict adherence to guidance of our Commandant particularly in the aspect of adaptability, agility, developing leaders, joint operation, rapid deployment, revival of martial arts, physical fitness, and preparedness through trainings, our organization will surely never fail our nation and its people. All of these are benchmark for measuring our readiness which requires our greatest focus and effort.

As the current Command Sergeant Major, Philippine Marine Corps, I speak on behalf of the Enlisted Corps and encourage every Marines to face the present and future of this organization in a better light. We have a strong foundation, so fear nor failure is not an option. We have the best fighting force composed with the few but proud men and women who make up the total Corps that stand, ready to execute our mission and become the nation’s highly capable amphibious force for archipelagic coastal defense. We are the most-ready to protect the nation. We are the Philippine Marine Corps!


Antonio O. Limitares
Chief Master Sergeant PN(M)



Destined for Greatness

By: Maj Jerber Anthony J Belonio PN(M)

It has been said that life is a journey that has a lot of different paths. But any path you choose ultimately becomes your destiny. Such is the story of Maj. Gen. Arturo G Rojas PN(M). Hailing from Koronadal City, the Crown City of the South, he found his way towards the north

reach his goal. Upon graduation, he volunteered to join the ranks of the few, the proud where he traversed the perilous mountains of Sulu, Bulacan, Cotabato, Quezon, Basilan, Zamboanga, and Kalinga-Apayao.

During his early years in the Corps, Maj. Gen. Rojas spent his time with the Marine Battalion Landing Team 3, Marine Battalion Landing Team 9, and 61st Reconnaissance Company. He devoted his time and efforts to improve his skills as a special operator earning various accolades by acquiring numerous trainings such as Basic Airborne Course, Jumpmaster's Course, Military Scuba Course, Scout Ranger Course, Intelligence Officer Basic Course, Military Intelligence Collection Course, Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance Agent Course, Sure-shock Urban Warfare Course, Jungle Environment Survival Training, Force Reconnaissance Orientation Training and Officers Psychological Operations Course, among others. These trainings and schooling helped him become a formidable stalwart of special operations that led him to become the first Marine Commander of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM).

Aside from earning the distinction of being the first Marine SOCOM Commander, MGen Rojas also held positions in these units/offices: Assistant Chief, Plans and Policy Division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Education and Training, J8; Operations Officer of Marine Corps Training Center; Operations Officer and eventually the Executive Officer of Marine Battalion Landing Team 2; Executive Officer and subsequently the Commanding Officer of the Force Reconnaissance Battalion; Deputy of the Office Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Plans, N5; Chief of Staff of Fleet-Marine Ready Force; Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, MC5; Commander of the Marine Special Operations Group; Deputy Commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade; Director of the Center for Naval Leadership and Excellence; Provisionary Commander of 4th Marine Brigade; Commander



where he honed not only his academic dexterity but also his athletic prowess. Having gained the necessary tools from a prestigious institution in De La Salle Zobel High School, he then decided to pursue a higher calling upon his graduation.

On that fateful moment on the first day of April some 37 years ago, Maj. Gen. Rojas started his journey in the military service. He entered the hallowed grounds of the Philippine Military Academy where his love for country was bolstered and his abilities to lead men was enhanced. It was a road less travelled and only those with determination will have survived. There were challenges along the way but his resolve did not falter. His perseverance led him to



of 2nd Marine Brigade; Deputy Commander and later on the Acting Commander of the Western Mindanao Command.

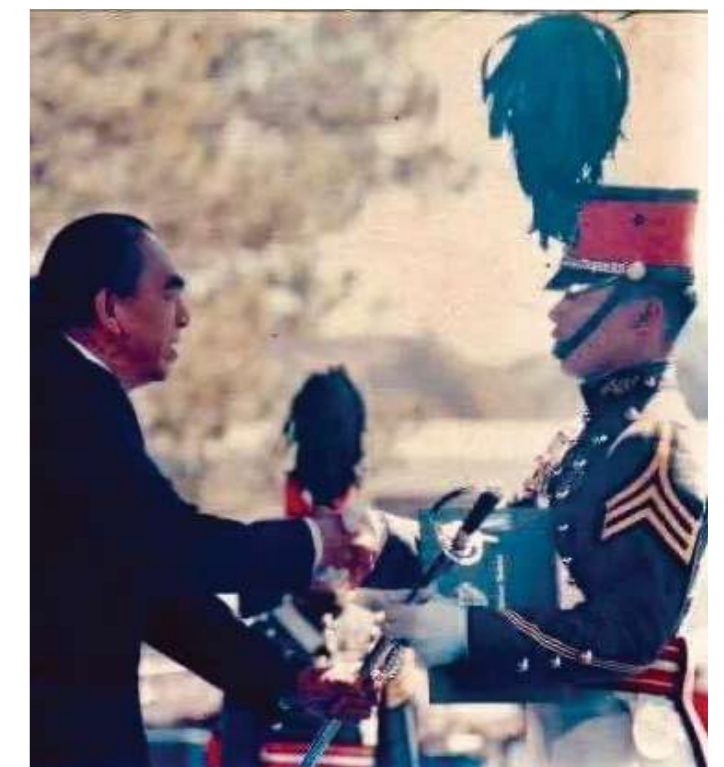
While holding those various positions, Maj. Gen. Rojas still took the time to improve himself further by taking up advanced schooling. He currently holds two Master's degrees: a Master of Science in Defense Analysis (Special Operation/Low Intensity Conflict) Curriculum from the United States Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, USA in 2004 and a Master in Public Management Major in Department and Security from the Development Academy of the Philippines in 2011. He also attended the 12th Executive Course in National Security in 2008, Command and General Staff Course in 2011, and the Advanced Security Cooperation ASC/8-1 at the DKI-APCSS in Honolulu, Hawaii in 2018.

Through the years of his exemplary service, Maj. Gen. Rojas earned numerous awards and decorations including four Distinguished Service Star, Distinguished Service Medal, Outstanding Achievement Medal, Gold Cross Medal, two Distinguished Navy Cross and a Bronze Cross Medal, among others.

Throughout his stint in the Corps, he dedicated his life to keeping up with the highest standards of being a Marine. That is why on the cusp of the culmination of his journey through the road less travelled, he was able to reach the pinnacle of success. An achievement that was brought

about by the love and support of his wife, Elmina and the inspiration of his children, Arturo IV, Alfonso, and Alessandra. His family serves as the beacon that guides him home no matter where destiny brings him in service to God, country, and the people.

His hard work, perseverance, and sacrifice became the foundation from which he built an illustrious career that earned him another distinction. Ladies and gentlemen, the 36th Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps: MAJOR GENERAL ARTURO G ROJAS PN(M).



A Transformation LIKE NO-Other

by: Kate Raca

Various historical accounts state that the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) is infamous for having recruited countless Filipinos among the different sectoral groups to join their cause of overthrowing the Philippine Government in favor of a new Communist State. It is led by the working class and expelling foreign influence from the country such as that of the USA. Most often than not, it is in the youth sector that the CTG successfully recruits members to become Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) Cadres, organizers, recruiters, or worse, participate in the armed struggle. It is not a question of who gets selected. Various individuals from different walks of life were identified to have been victims of this organization. Even Justine Kate D. Raca, despite having above-average financial means to get by in life, was targeted for recruitment.

Kate, as most of her family and friends call her, was born into a family of six in Meycauayan, Bulacan. She lived a seemingly average life with ideal conditions including a harmonious relationship with her family. Her parents were well-off and capable of providing more than enough for their needs. After graduating high school as a valedictorian, Kate enrolled at the University of the Philippines – Diliman in December 2014. She pursued a degree in Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English. It was at this point that Kate's life took an unexpected turn through her involvement with the CPP.



As a CPP Member at UP Diliman

Identifying herself as a leader and an outgoing type of person, Kate volunteered to become the head of their batch of freshmen students. This caught the attention of some of the CPP members moving underground to recruit her at the said university. Her exceptional skills in public speaking, above-average intellect, and drive to achieve a sense of purpose were some of the evident characteristics that led to her being recruited as a member of Kabataang Makabayan (KM), an underground CTG youth organization under the umbrella of the CPP. Having a sense of purpose and direction, Kate took pride in excelling at the tasks that were given to her at this point in her college life. This was to recruit more students to join KM. Some of her colleagues in the underground movement at that time were Kevin Castro, Kate's recruiter in the KM, and Chad Booc who died in armed encounters between government forces on December 21, 2022 in Polillo, Quezon and on February 24, 2022 in New Bataan, Davao de Oro, respectively. Kate later joined other organizations linked to CPP and supervised the recruitment of various students in different colleges and universities outside of UP Diliman. She is doing these activities while she pursued her studies herself.

Imagine the life of a college student who is facing a multitude of academic requirements, limited interaction with family due to distance of location and other family priorities, and with only school friends and colleagues to rely on most of the time. This was only a fraction of the kind of college life Kate had experienced. This is not including the burdensome and hazardous activities that Kate entered herself into in her involvement with the CPP. Kate participated in rallies with the freshmen students whom she recruited to express their discord over social issues. In addition, she continuously recruited other students to join their cause. After some time, Kate became a renowned student organizer at UP, allowing her to become acquainted with other prominent mass activists such as Sarah Elago and Renato Reyes, Jr. This also led Kate to pursue the programmed immersion for student activists into CTG-affected areas across the country. This became instrumental in orienting aspiring CPP-NPA Terrorist (CNT) members, including Kate, to bear arms and join the armed struggle later in her life.

Kate's mother was able to observe the behavioral changes that happened to her. Her parents already had suspicions of her involvement with left-leaning organizations but had no one to approach nor did they know how to appropriately deal with Kate being deeply indoctrinated in the CPP ideology. Hoping for a compromise, Kate's parents decided to wait until graduation, hoping that the CPP would turn their attention elsewhere to another student activist. Unfortunately, Kate's false conviction of serving the masses through the CNT became more prominent as she left her parents with a note in their residence. She



stated her intention of becoming a full-time CNT member and that she would not have been a loss in the family considering that her parents still had her other siblings with them. Kate's parents were heartbroken with grief and despair as if they already lost their daughter. They relentlessly prayed for a miracle for their daughter's return.

Deployment to Palawan

Following her graduation in June 2019, Kate achieved success in becoming a CPP member and aspiring CNT fighter through student mass activism and CPP membership. Kate became a full-time CNT member of the SRMA-4E deployed to Palawan in July 2019. During her mass work in the community, Kate was able to practice her profession as a teacher. Kate took pride in imparting knowledge and education to the local youth, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic period when schools were required to implement distance learning or home-based learning modules. Kate taught not only learning modules but also party courses for recruiting locals to become CTG supporters and full-time members, especially the youth and the indigenous people.

Although achieving a superficial sense of fulfillment, Kate realized that her "service" to the masses was not sustainable and only addressed some of their immediate concerns. One of Kate's turning points in the CNT was the death of a female comrade due to illness. Kate felt guilty for not providing her with proper medical attention because of the risk of being pursued. Another reason was her near-death experiences during the two armed encounters with the Marines in the hinterlands of Brgy Mainit, Brookes Point in September 2020 and in Brgy Tinitian, Roxas in December 2021. She was fortunate to have been



saved while her other comrades got wounded and even died. And the most compelling reason was when her comrades blatantly left her on her own during the armed encounter in Brgy Tinitian, Roxas. She realized that these were not the type of people she wanted to be associated with any longer. Left alone in the mountainous and forested area of Roxas, Kate voluntarily surrendered to the Barangay Captain of Brgy Tinitian yet struggling to start a new life.

After Surrendering to the Government Forces Facilitated by MBLT-3 under 3MBDe

Upon surrender, Kate experienced difficulties adjusting to life outside the CTG. It was evident that smoking and drinking became her coping mechanism for the level of stress she had experienced. This was caused by different factors such as the death of her female comrade from an illness, her near-death experiences with the encounters with the Marines, and the constant thought of possible torture and harmful interrogation that made her anxious and distressed. There were several discussions that led to disagreements pertaining to Kate justifying her actions as a CTG as righteous and noble "service" to the Filipino masses. However, Kate eventually was able to limit her vices and began a lifestyle change during her stay at the 3rd Marine Brigade and Marine Battalion Landing Team-3. She was then reunited with her family after years of being an active member of the illusive terrorist group.

Unsurprisingly, Kate displayed a sense of genuine desire to help others, especially during her participation in various community engagement activities in CTG-influenced barangays in Northern Palawan where she talked to her fellow youth whom she had personally organized at the time of her active role in the CTG. It was at this point that the certainty of Kate's commitment to the counter-organizing efforts of the government against the CTG was evident. Kate was able to openly denounce the CTG on various occasions such as indignation rallies, public forums, and nationwide broadcast guesting with the Hands Off Our Children Movement and the Sonshine Media Network International (SMNI). She also exposed the deceitful recruitment mechanism of the CTG among the youth and IP sectors. Although as gallant as it may seem, Kate's actions brought about consequences that posed risks not only for herself but also for her family. In response to Kate's surrender and open denunciations, the CPP released official statements condemning her actions against the organization. In addition, the CPP threatened her life and that of her family and labeled her as a traitor to the Filipino masses. In spite of this, Kate's conviction to rectify her previous actions drove her to continue campaigning against the CTG.

It has been apparent that Kate's intentions for serving the government and the Filipino people are genuine. Nevertheless, she is not exempt from the law. Kate was eventually reminded of the consequences of her actions during her active role as a CTG member. This was through the Warrants of Arrest that had to be served



on her. The complex and delicate process of being adjudicated in court on two separate occasions made her realize the seriousness of her involvement with the CTG. This meant that should Kate be proven guilty she would have been detained in the same correctional facility as the other female CTG members detained earlier in 2019. These were dubbed the Palawan Seven. Hence, they endangered her life once more either by being recruited once more by her former colleagues or by causing harm should she reject them. Nonetheless, Kate still faced trial in court and was later granted provisional dismissal by the presiding judge.

After the possibility of nearly being convicted, Kate committed to prepare herself physically and mentally for her application to the Naval Officer Candidate Course (NOCC) of the Philippine Navy. Hoping to eventually become a Marine Officer should circumstances permit her to do so, she was eventually qualified and joined the NOCC Class 39 last December 2022, a year after her surrender to the government forces. Kate's

transformation from a hardcore CTG member into an aspiring AFP Officer is truly an inspiring story worth sharing with others especially with the affected families who are currently battling to regain back their family members who were recruited by the CTG and hoping to live a normal life once more in mainstream society.

The odds of having a second chance at life on two separate occasions are not common coincidences. This is why Kate's family is beyond thankful for the new life that was granted to her. The experience led the family, especially her parents, to become active members of organizations that are committed in exposing the harms of being involved with left-leaning organizations so that other families would not experience what they had undergone. As she pursues her newfound life of service, Kate received a message from her mother. This message stated how proud they are of what she has achieved in completely changing her life for the better. They are looking forward to further witnessing her transformation as an Officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

1ST MARINE BRIGADE LAUNCHES RANAO RAGAT PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN LANA DEL SUR

The 1st Marine Brigade aims to address peace and order issues in the five coastal municipalities of Lanao del Sur - Kapatagan, Balabagan, Marogong, Picong, and Malabang. To realize this, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-2, in collaboration with other security sectors, religious sector, Moro National Liberation Front, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and local government units, organized the Ranao Ragat Peace and Development Council to unite the five municipalities in achieving peace and stability in the area.

"We are glad that finally, we have partners in addressing conflict in our area, especially in preventing those lawless elements and fixing rido in our town," said Malabang Mayor Alinader Balindong.

One initiative of the council is addressing loose firearms. This resulted in the simultaneous voluntary surrender of loose firearms. "The challenge here is rido, so if there is rido, people tend to hug their firearms just to protect themselves," Lt Col Sergio Ronquillo III PN(M)(MNSA) said.

Another initiative is rido settlement which involves feuding between families that usually escalates to more violence. After the council's creation, they settled a number of rido cases.

The 1st Marine Brigade also lauded the active role of the local chief executives in promoting peace and order in their localities as the brigade emphasized its commitment to protect the people.

1ST MARINE BRIGADE LAUNCHES IRANUN PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IN MAGUINDANAO DEL NORTE



Through the initiative of the 1st Marine Brigade to strengthen collaborations among local governments under its Area of Responsibility, the Marine Battalion Landing Team 5 launched the first Iranun Peace and Development Council (IPADC) on October 5, 2022 in Parang, Maguindanao.

The IPADC aims to strengthen relationships with and collaboration among the local government units of Parang, Buldon, Matanog, Barira, and Datu Blah Sinsuat in Maguindanao del Norte to achieve lasting peace, stability, and development.

"This is an initiative to address the mere issues in Iranun towns such as rido or family feud and deliver services through peace initiatives in attaining the development of these areas," said Major Melchor Gonzaludo PN(M), Battalion Commander of Marine Battalion Landing Team 5.

The launching was attended by the local chief executives, security sector, legislators, and other partners. They also signed a pledge of commitment to support the said council for the betterment of Iranun towns.

"We need to unite and encourage our constituents to support our aims. In order to attain developments in our province of Maguindanao, we need to achieve peace. Truly, developments rely on people's quality of life and give them what they need. We, the 1st Marine Brigade, are here for the protection of every individual and as your partner in achieving developments," BGen Eric Macaambac PN(M) said during the launching.

Indeed, the 1st Marine Brigade is dedicated to achieving peace and development through the IPADC. It spearheaded rido settlements including a settlement between prominent Ibay and Tomawis clans. The Bangsamoro Government lauded the commendable efforts of the 1st Marine Brigade.

The Quest for Peace through the Iranun Peace and Development Council

by: 1Lt Israh Mae T Lorente PN(M)

"Without peace, there is no development, and without development, there is no peace."
- Jan Eliasson

Tracing the roots of creation

Peace is a vital aspect for development. We can never achieve economic stability and growth in the area if there is no presence of peace.

On December 11, 2011, the 1st Marine Brigade initiated the Kalamansig-Lebak Joint Peace and Development Council, which expanded and evolved over time as the Zone of Peace and Development Council (ZOPADC). The ZOPADC serves as a forum for active collaboration of peace and development programs among the seven municipalities under Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces and the security sector.

With the intent to replicate the success of the ZOPADC, the 1st Marine Brigade, through the Marine Battalion Landing Team-5, initiated the creation of the Iranun Peace and Development Council composed of the Iranun municipalities, Matanog, Barira, Buldon, and Parang, all of Maguindanao del Norte, the Marines, and the Philippine National Police.

Quenching the thirst for peace and development

On October 06 2022, the IPADC was successfully launched in Parang, Maguindanao del Norte. It is fully supported by the Joint Task Force Central, the Philippine National Police, the local chief executives, legislators, MNLf, MILF, religious, and business sectors. It was a very overwhelming activity filled with people eager to unite for peace and development.

iOne Iranun

Rido or family feud is one of the conflict issues in Maguindanao that hampers peace and development. The clans of Ibay of Parang and Tomawis of Barira, Maguindanao del Norte have a standing political conflict for years and both parties were rarely seen together. Setting aside their existing conflicts, both Mayors of Parang and Barira were present and even had a conversation during the launching in October and in the 1st Executive Meeting of IPADC on February 9, 2023.



To express their sincerity of working together to promote peace and progress to the Iranun municipalities, they formally ended their conflict through a reconciliation between their clans facilitated by the BARMm government. With no conflicts between the leaders of these Iranun municipalities it would be easier for them to encourage their people to settle conflicts and work together.

iIranun Basketball League

Sports is one of the best ways to unite people and build camaraderie. With basketball as one of the popular sports in the Iranun municipalities, the IPADC initiated the Iranun Basketball League which was enthusiastically participated by 10 competing teams: the four Iranun municipalities, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish Church, Marines, and the Philippine National Police. Lasting for almost two weeks, the participants showcased their talents and skills in basketball, bonded, and enjoyed the league, while demonstrating sportsmanship, teamwork and camaraderie.

iWhat the future holds

Since the creation of IPADC, significant changes can be seen and felt most especially in the relationship among these municipalities. They are actively supporting and participating in each other's activities, collaborating on settling rido cases, and leading the Iranun communities with common visions. The success of IPADC is still uncertain but through the effort and dedication of everyone, these gradual steps we are taking will surely pave the way for our quest for peace and development.



A Glimpse of My Malabang Experience

by: 1Lt Jayne Anne O Din PN(M)

On 24 June 2021, I was lucky and privileged to be installed as the Officer-in-Charge of the 22nd Marine Company. There were some challenges but almost everything went smoothly as we were deployed in municipalities with less threat and minimal activities.

In October 2021, the 1st Marine Brigade had to rationalize its forces in preparation for the National and Local Elections 2022. Our battalion, Marine Battalion Landing Team-2, was relocated at Brgy Matalin, Malabang, Lanao del Sur assuming jurisdiction over the five coastal municipalities of Lanao del Sur under the 6th Infantry Division Area of Operations. The 2nd Marine Company assumed responsibility over Picong and Marogong, while the 32nd Marine Company was deployed in Kapatagan and Balabagan and my company was deployed in the infamous Municipality of Malabang.

Upon assuming responsibility in Malabang, I was shocked by the numerous shooting incidents and other unusual events that blatantly transpired during our first month. More so, I was stunned by how bystanders reacted as if the occurrence of such is normal for them and no one would volunteer to turn the suspect in even if they personally witnessed the crime. As I understand their culture, I realized that most Malabanguenos chose to be silent for their family's safety and avoid being caught up with warring clans; for Maranaos are well-known for their culture of rido and their high regard for one's self.

A series of round-the-clock foot and mobile security patrols coupled with constant engagements with key leaders, local government officials, and community members were conducted to pre-empt armed lawless groups and violent political supporters in conducting more chaos in the municipality. Said measures

effectively helped in minimizing the occurrence of shooting incidents, but as the elections approached, incidents spiked again as warring political clans made scenarios to get sympathy for their political advancements.

On May 9, 2022 elections, and as predicted, a series of unusual incidents transpired during D-day. I personally experienced some of it as I was constantly going back and forth to the hot spot polling precincts to monitor and ensure the successful conduct of elections. As I went into the classrooms, I was dumbfounded upon witnessing supporters of warring political clans together with some members of the Electoral Board do their magic without batting an eye to get ahead of their respective opponents. We were able to stop them but God only knows what happened after we left for another polling precinct. Moreover, I was also shocked as it was my first time seeing very unsystematic and undisciplined voters, that even with complete signages and guide ropes to keep the elections



organized, they deliberately ignored it and still rushed for priority; and as if being paid to exercise their right of suffrage. But my most memorable experience was when we were welcomed by a burst of gunfire from one of the strongholds of a political candidate while responding to an indiscriminate firing near one of the polling precincts. During the incident, I was so enraged and my primary instinct was to return fire and search the area, but as we observed and informed the HHQs, we were able to consider that it might worsen the situation and we just urged the political candidate to surrender the firearm and continue with our mission. These memorable and enraging experiences from the elections taught me to be calm, think twice, and act quickly as the worst situation might arise in a single bad decision.

After the declaration of winners, the municipality suffered a huge blow in sanitation after the supporters of the outgoing and incoming administration piled the roads with mountains of trash. It was another kind of experience as residents were at a loss and solely relied on the local police and MBLT-2 in single-handedly clearing impassable roads to restore the flow of traffic and most importantly, prevent residents from acquiring diseases.

Upon assumption of the new administration, I



for one was very optimistic about their strategies in improving and developing the municipality, particularly with their approach at resolving family feuds – the most pressing challenge that crumbles the peace situation; but the same with the previous years, until now only a few were resolved.

As months passed by, a series of indiscriminate firing and firefights between the supporters of warring political clans transpired, with both clans showing no concern for the damages, injuries, and trauma being experienced by civilians who are not directly involved in their clan wars. This just shows that no matter who has the seat of power, as long as they prioritize their pride, personal interests, and resentments, development and progress in Malabang are deemed unattainable.

Confronting challenges in Malabang is very complex as warring political clans tend to dictate the tempo of development and progress while those in positions are using their political influences to gain an advantage for themselves.

As a junior officer temporarily bidding farewell to the beloved Malabang, I will bring with me these lessons from my one year and four months of unforgettable experiences and I could proudly say, I conquered Malabang... for now!



Road to Lasting Peace through Chaplain's Engagement

by: Maj Yusuper K Delmion Chaplain Service

The 1st Marine Brigade (1MBde) and its battalions, the Marine Landing Team-2 (MBLT-2) and Marine Landing Team-5 (MBLT-5), conducted various activities to alleviate the living standards of the people and maintain peace and security in the area of operations.

The Commander of 1MBde, BGEN Eric A Macaambac PN(M), is implementing various programs on peace advocacy of the Philippine Marines in Central Mindanao. Since the majority of the people are Muslims, he saw the importance of having a Muslim Chaplain or Imam to engage the religious sectors and other people in the community.

The Chaplain or Imam contributed a lot to the Civil Military Operations (CMO) of the brigade and its battalions where the Chaplain conducted visitation to the Madrasa or Islamic institutions and dialogue with the Ulama and other religious sectors. These activities proved very effective in preventing the influence of the terrorist group from recruiting new members and supporters in the geographically isolated areas.

Maj Yusuper K Delmion, 1MBde Chaplain assigned to the Headquarters 1st Marine Brigade, located at the formerly known Camp Abubakar in Sitio Bombaran, Brgy Togaig, Maguindanao del Norte, effectively conducted stakeholders' engagement through barangay visitations and pulong-pulong, visitation to Madrasas, dialogues with the religious sectors, and engagements

with the MILF, MNLF, government agencies, and local government units to gain mass support in sustaining peace and stability and preventing any propaganda of the terrorist groups.

Maj Delmion CHS, 1MBde Chaplain, is not only concentrating on the spiritual enhancement programs and other religious services but also took up additional CMO tasks to effectively win the hearts and minds of the Muslim communities.

The program of the Chaplain in the AO has resulted in boosting the morale of the troops where the local populace and marines have now forged mutual understanding and respect for each other. In effect, old conflicts have diminished and peace is attained. That is one of the good indicators that the mission of the 1MBde is truly accomplished and the enemies' propaganda is prevented.



Eliminating Terrorism

by: Marine Battalion Landing Team-10

The New People's Army (NPA) has spread fear and anarchy throughout the country since 1969. The NPA has carried out numerous lethal attacks including bombings and assassinations against civilians and government forces. In the vast majority of cases, innocent civilians and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or the Philippine National Police (PNP) have been the primary targets of these assaults. These lawless elements have waged a bloody insurgency against the government of the Philippines for several years. Since its inception, the NPA has been blamed for the deaths of tens of thousands of Filipinos, qualifying it as one of the world's most ruthless terrorist groups. People living in rural areas are subjected to daily atrocities at the hands of militants, and therefore bear the brunt of the devastation caused by the violence. Not only are they notorious for their lethal methods, but also for their efforts to

undermine the democratic institutions of the Philippines through the assassination of politicians and the instillation of terror in various government institutions.

C a g a y a n

Valley, like other areas, is part of the territory where the communist terrorist group terrorizes and instills fear among the populace. There were numerous reports of atrocities and lawlessness, which negatively impacted not only government services but also local residents. On the other hand, the Philippine government makes every effort to prevent and end the infamous activities of terrorist organizations. The AFP and PNP have engaged in a variety of activities including combat and non-combat operations to clear and impede the movements and activities of the insurgents. The AFP took measures to end their disreputable actions, which had a negative impact on the lives of the Cagayanos. The Marine Battalion Landing Team-10 (MBLT-10), based in the northern part of Cagayan, was one of the key elements that led the fight against communism and waged war. The unit has collaborated and coordinated effectively with various law enforcement agencies whose efforts have focused primarily on the NPA. The unit conducted a series of military operations aimed at preventing and neutralizing its enemies. Consequently, the NPA in Cagayan was dismantled in the final quarter of 2022. Their demise was attributed to the collaboration of all law enforcement and government agencies.

Various government agencies have acknowledged this unit's efforts in maintaining peace and order. In light of this, MBLT-10 remains committed to its mandate and continues to protect the people of Cagayan.



SENTINEL OF THE NORTH

by: Marine Battalion Landing Team-10

“There is no lonely place, only people,” a quote that has caught my attention while reading the bulletin of reminders and instructions attached on the wall inside the visitors lounge of the fisherman shelter and at the same time as the Littoral Monitoring Detachment (LMD) of the Philippine Navy stationed on Mavulis Island, internationally known as Y’Ami Island, the northernmost island of the province of Batanes in the northernmost part of the Philippine territory. It is approximately 73.8 km. from the municipality of Basco, the capital of Batanes province. The island is uninhabited but is guarded by the Philippine Navy and Philippine Marines, together with the Civilian Active Auxiliary (CAA) from the municipality of Itbayat, the nearest inhabited island to Mavulis. Military personnel were deployed on the island as part of the territorial defense to protect and deter any external threat to the sovereignty of the country. Going to Mavulis takes almost eight hours or longer by motorboat depending on the weather condition with at least an hour stop over on Itbayat Island to cool the motorboat engine. We have to endure motion sickness and big waves caused by the strong winds blowing from different directions. Setting foot on the island gives a feeling of pride and excitement to explore its beauty. It has a geographical feature of mostly rocky with steep cliffs. The coastline is covered by large boulders of sharp-edged rocks with a small part of a white sand beach.

Our day starts with a cup of coffee and binocular telescope on hand to monitor and identify foreign and local fishing vessels within sight while the Philippine Navy personnel attend to the radar for monitoring and challenging vessel/ships that pass within the Philippine territory.



On May 29, 2019, the AFP, together with the Provincial Government of Batanes, constructed the Fisherman Shelter, a facility for the fishermen of Batanes where they can take shelter during inclement weather or simply spend the night to rest during their fishing activities. In the last quarter of the year when the air starts to get cold and different weather disturbances enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility, it is when the island experiences the harshest weather.

The strong winds brought by the Habagat (southwest monsoon) and Amihan (northeast monsoon) cause big waves posing great danger for all floating vessels on the northern part of the country. Despite the beauty and abundance of seafoods, the island has no source of potable water. A desalination plant was installed in the area to compensate for the absence of potable water; however, due to the lack of technical knowledge of maintaining such a machine, it has already malfunctioned. Personnel detailed for duty rely on the water supply brought during rotation and re-provision (RORE). Though there are rain catchers erected in the area, rain water is often contaminated by the salty mist brought by the strong sea breeze during inclement weather; thus, supply and use of potable water is limited. Every personnel detailed for duty on the island carries a one-month provision but frequent occurrence of inclement weather prevents the conduct of rotation and re-provision causing shortages.

Overstaying on the island, shortage of provision, and postponement of supply provisions sometimes inevitably give a feeling of frustration among personnel. It is imperative to be observant of everyone’s behavior while listening to concerns, sharing thoughts, and giving positive advice that such delays were just part of the job and sacrifices as a soldier, and cheering them are some of the ways to counter the negative effects of boredom and frustrations that we all experience.

Setting an example on coping up with difficult situations by making myself busy to combat boredom is also a good way to create a positive influence. Inclement weather, shortage of provisions especially potable water, going up the mountain to gather firewood, planting vegetables and cultivating the garden on the mountain top, harvesting root crops, and catching edible crabs, shells and fish to keep ourselves busy are some of our effective ways of coping up and surviving such difficult situation. During shortage of potable water, we have to scour the secluded part of the mountain top to search and har-

vest rainwater on makeshift rain catchers made of buoys and other water containers hung on tree branches. Despite the peril and difficulty of going up and down the steep and slippery trail up the mountain where we have to rappel our way down, we took it as an opportunity to exercise and strengthen our endurance. The unit is heavily dependent on the availability of Philippine Navy vessel during the conduct of RORE from Basco to Itbayat and Mavulis, but more often than not, there are no available Navy vessel to undertake such mission as they are also attending to other equally important operational commitments; thus, the company is utilizing civilian motorboat for the conduct of RORE. In most cases, these civilian motorboats’ beaching capacity is limited during low tide; however, on high tide the boats can beach ashore but we still have to deal and endure with the hip-high waves that often cause accidents to personnel and damage to provisions during the embarkation. As a recommendation, having an improvised floating raft may greatly improve the safety of personnel and provision during embarkation.

I would like to acknowledge the CAAs who take post with us and have shared their fishing skills and catch. Having a good rapport with them has made us deal with and survive the difficult situations easier. Forty-five days of duty on the island guarding the northernmost frontier of our territory, I have realized that surviving the inclement weather, shortage of provisions, boredom and uncertainty of what will happen the next day is something to cherish and to be proud of as Marines. Oorrahh!!!





“Female Marines Inspires Other Women”

By: Cpt Johanna Fe V Portillo PN(M)

Women are vital assets in a family, community, and nation. If given the power, they can make amazing contributions. These strengths and capabilities will not only enhance their lives, but also benefit the individual, families, organization, nations – and eventually, the world at large.

The world is changing and the way we live our lives is also changing. Women are becoming more empowered than ever before. This empowerment must rise in women’s participation in society, which has led to an increase in their influence on social issues.

As a Military Observer (MILOB), I interacted with women while patrolling villages. Once I showed my empowering ability as a MILOB and as a Liaison Officer between Force and Military Coordinating Cell in a Long Range/Team Patrol for almost a month with the Rwanda Company Contingent, Zambian Company Contingent, and Cambodian Engineering in Ouada and Ouanda-Djalle, an armed groups-controlled area in Sector East, Central African Republic. As the only female among the MILOBs and Contingent Force during this Long-Range Patrol, I was one of the key people in the negotiations with the Union for Peace in the Central African Republic armed group key leaders to cooperate with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabi-

lization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and leave the civilian places. I represented the MINUSCA position, point of decision, and high value on MINUSCA’s biggest joint operation. But for me, empowering 3000+ affected women in these villages was the most promising and greatest achievement I had in this mission.

As a woman, I have a vital role in the process of “healing” a society. I feel and understand their challenges and how they feel about it. I share my story for inspiration, try to be supportive without expecting anything in return, and encourage them to find their inner strength, trust, and to regain confidence in their government that everything will be alright at the right time. Despite everything that has happened to them, I saw the glow in their eyes and smiles on their faces as I lent my ears, communicated, and encouraged women in Ouada and Ouanda-Djalle to continue pursuing their goals and dreams and that made my day!

There are many ways to empower other women, but the bottom line is that you need to do what feels right and good for you. It is our life - live it on our terms with grace, kindness, and love. As the first and only female Marines from the Philippines deployed in MINUSCA and broke the record for longest patrol in this biggest joint operation, I humbly say, “THANK YOU GOD, I DID IT!”



PMC produces First Female Military Free Fall-qualified personnel

by: 1Lt Jaywardene G Hontoria PN(M)

After completing the requirements of the Military Free Fall (MFF) Course Class 30-2022 of the Special Forces Regiment (Airborne) (SFR[A]), PFC Milky Q Rojonan PN(M) officially becomes the first ever female Military Free Fall-qualified personnel of the Philippine Marine Corps upon her graduation last March 9, 2023 held at the regiment’s headquarters in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Military free fall (MFF), or commonly known as skydiving, is not new to some female Marines most especially to the Jump Master-qualified who are required to jump as free fallers during their Marine Jump Master Course (MJMC). However, with the lack of an official certifying body in the PMC, the PMC is compelled to send students to the Philippine Army under the Special Forces Regiment(Airborne)toundergo theMilitaryFreeFallCourse.



PFC Rojonan is one of the three female personnel assigned with the Force Reconnaissance Group (FRG), the PMC’s frontrunner in special operations. Not known to many, PFC Rojonan hailed from the 9th Marine Amphibious Ready Unit (MARU) prior to being assigned with FRG and was also a rated Radiowoman, and both Airborne- and Jump Master-qualified prior to taking up the MFF course through the guidance of the unit commander, Col Enstein B Calaoa JR PN(M), who is an avid military free faller himself.

A total of 34 students completed the four-week MFF course, which is divided into four modules: Ground Training Phase, Military Free Fall Operations, Novice Free-Fall/Qualifying Jump, and Non-academic Module. MFF is a distinct form of tactical parachuting used by the elite forces around the globe which gives the jumper

the freedom to manually deploy the parachute at a specific altitude after a period of free fall. It is a means of tactically inserting troops by dropping them off from a military aircraft into areas behind enemy lines to conduct various military special operations thereafter.

Through this successful endeavor, the FRG stood to its mandate of producing multi-capable Marine special operators conducting operations in support of the PMC’s mission while upholding the standards of Gender and Development in the military workplace.

With her successful completion of the said course, Pfc Rojonan adds herself up to a number of elite Marine Military Free Fallers of Force Reconnaissance Group while also officially becoming the ‘first’ in the Philippine Marine Corps.



CONGRATULATIONS, Milky Rojonan from your FRG Family! Blue skies! Hurrah!

A Glimpse of **PMC's** Transition into a Fully Capable **KBU**



By: Ms Liza A. Soler, Civ HR, Budget Officer II, O/MC10

It has been an age-old dream of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) to obtain autonomous supervision and management of its own resources and be able to cater to the needs of the Corps effectively and expeditiously. Eventually, this aspiration was finally granted when PMC was officially transformed into a Key Budgetary Unit (KBU) under the Philippine Navy (PN) pursuant to the Office of the President's Letter on September 10, 2019. With this bequeathed autonomy, PMC has since fully strived to upgrade its expenditures and ensured that the implementation of PMC budget is aligned with PMC thrusts consistent with PN strategy and Department of National Defense (DND) guidance. Throughout its journey being a newly-transformed KBU, many significant highlights were already attained and amidst the countless challenges encountered, the Corps progressively achieved its goal in advancing and elevating its efficiency in the dispensation of its own resources in the spirit of good governance, transparency, and accountability.

One of the fundamental and significant advantages of becoming a KBU is the granting of authority to the Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps as the Head of Procuring Entity to enhance the absorptive capacity of PMC and expedite procurement transactions. This will provide opportunities for signing contracts to hasten the processing of projects and streamline the procurement transactions within the Corps. Moreover, PMC now has a direct representation to the Senior Leader Round Table Discus-

sion wherein the Corps' Plans and Programs are directly presented to the Higher Headquarters. Furthermore, the Personnel Services are now solely managed by the Corps through the Marine Corps Finance Center. With this, PMC personnel can now enjoy a stress-free processing of all requests and claims far from the lengthy queue they have once endured before being accommodated. These are just some of the many privileges currently enjoyed by the Corps following its transformation into a KBU.

Prior to this transition, the Technical Working Group did a lot of tedious research and preparations, conducted a series of meetings and simulation workshops to prepare the newly-activated units on their responsibilities, and fully capacitated its personnel by conducting seminars and sending them to specialized trainings. Some personnel were also dispatched to PN units' Management and Financial Offices for an on-the-job training to acquire knowledge and skills in procurement and accounting procedures and other financial transactions. Similarly, PMC accomplished all the essential requirements such as the supplementary Table of Organization wherein 31 additional plantilla positions for the Civilian Human Resource were added including a couple of significant units to cater to the financial and procurement requirements of the Corps. On May 8, 2019, the Corps submitted its first ever budget proposal for FY2020 to the Department of Budget and Management for its independent budget in preparation

for its activation. It is noteworthy that the meticulously and systematically structured plan of the Corps for its transition was successfully executed and accomplished. Fused with enthusiasm and utmost dedication

of the PMC officers and men to serve the Corps, we finally grasped our financial independence and will even be more competent, receptive, and dynamic in the coming years.

One of the significant accomplishments of the PMC is the early submission of the Budget and Financial Accountability Reports (BFARs) where it achieved a green color in the DND-wide Monitoring Table on Submission of BFARs in Fiscal Year 2022 indicating a very timely, trustworthy, and a well-functioning evaluation system of the Command in its expenditures. Moreover, the Corps also maintained its high performance in Budget Execution and Procurement Status based on PMC's quarterly and semi-annual Program and Performance and Budget Execution Review. The absorptive capacity of PMC as KBU has increased significantly from CY2020 to 2022. The Corps was able to fully utilize its Cash Allocation dutifully and remarkably in three consecutive years achieving almost 100% Cash Utilization. The Office of the AC of MS for Financial Management, MC10, along with its three competent Management and Fiscal Offices will remain steadfast in maintaining its efficacy in managing PMC's resources. This manifested when the Corps attained a 99.73% and 91.79% on Obligation and Disbursement Rate in CY2022, respectively, the highest all-time. Furthermore, the Corps was also an achiever in Early Procurement Activities. For the last three years following PMC's transition into a KBU, the procurement projects and activities of the Corps significantly increased and the Office of the AC of MS for Logistics, MC4 is very compliant with the submission of reports to Higher Head-

quarters. Predictably, most of the procurement projects were fully accomplished. Notwithstanding the scores of challenges and the painstaking procurement process, the Command is determined to achieve its goal in executing its projects for the consumption and benefit of PMC personnel in different Operational Area.

On another note, PMC has been very diligent in executing its budget and compliant with the Commission on Audit (COA). In 2019, PMC has no audit findings except for a few documents required by COA from this Command that were all completed and submitted on time. In 2020, only the PITC projects were partially delayed due to circumstances that cannot be controlled by the Command. Nevertheless, this problem has already been properly addressed. For the Calendar Year 2022, the Command has no outstanding compliance received since the COA Audit just commenced last August 30, 2022 and culminated in the 1st Quarter of 2023. The audit resulted in four Audit Observations and Recommendations and we are elated to disclose that these were now Fully Implemented. Irrespective of the number of Audit Observations that will be received by PMC, the Corps will always ensure compliance and will even strive harder to avert any imminent COA findings. With this trust, PMC will continue to pursue excellence, competence, and efficiency, and become more perceptive to the needs of its people and stakeholders.

For the last three years since becoming a KBU, we have already witnessed and achieved several noteworthy accomplishments chronicled in PMC's history which we will always be proud of. The PMC only started with an aspiration and from this, all PMC personnel will endlessly celebrate this remarkable milestone. Each marine personnel will carry this inspiration as they incessantly contribute to the Corps' mission and continue to create an impact to the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a whole.



PAGSUMADJA

By: 2Lt Khim Limuel A Tamaca PN(M)



Religious leaders uphold a paramount role in establishing peace and order in grassroots communities. Whenever there are pressing needs in their barangays, they are often sought to meddle and resolve these issues. Their pronouncements and wisdom are treated with revered importance that highly influence how people decide or handle issues in the most peaceful manner. However, despite their significant role in the society, they only receive limited attention and support and, more often, there is no venue where they can convey their issues and challenges or hold dialogues with local authorities.

Aware of the lack of venue for formal dialogues, the Marine

Battalion Landing Team 12 (MBLT-12) initiated an Islamic dialogue called, PAGSUMADJA, with the theme: "Defending Peace and Sustaining Moral Governance through Islamic Teachings," which aims to give religious leaders an avenue where they can raise their issues and concerns and recommend possible solutions to local authorities.

The activity starts with lectures focusing on the importance and role of Islam in peace and order. These topics are delivered by subject matter experts invited from both private and government agencies. This helps religious leaders review and emphasize their role as peace advocates. After the lectures, a dialogue is

conducted among religious leaders to discuss the challenges their respective communities face. These are then responded to by resource persons who are in the best position to help resolve their problems.

Pagsumadja is one of the major civil-military

initiatives of MBLT-12 designed to promote peace and security in Tawi-Tawi and introduce the peace initiatives of the security sector. The activity builds good relationship among the stakeholders and provide them a venue to reconnect with communities especially those situated in far-flung areas.





JOINT TASK FORCE TAWI-TAWI HOSTS YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2023

By: 2nd Marine Brigade

BONGAO, TAWI-TAWI - The Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi (JTFTT) led by BGen Romeo T Racadio PN(M), in partnership with the Provincial Government of Tawi-Tawi, hosted the Youth Leadership Summit 2023 held at Headquarters Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi, Brgy Sanga Sanga, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi on March 25-26, 2023.

As part of its advocacy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the JTFTT, through the Marine Battalion Landing Team-7 and in collaboration with the Gaba-an Youth Lead and the New Grounds Event, conceptualized the Youth Leadership Summit 2023 with the theme, "Making Choices, Building Voices, Marching Youth for Peace". The activity benefited around 350 youth from various municipalities and organizations such as Mindanao Institute for Peace and Development, Bangsamoro Youth Commission, Lakas Kabataan of the Provincial Government,

and Tawi-Tawi School of Arts and Trade.

During the closing ceremony, Deputy Brigade Commander Col Joel M Lazo PN(M), representing BGen Racadio, said that the Youth Summit was a very good opportunity that gave more meaning to the observance of Ramadan and the upcoming Holy Week. Meanwhile, Mr. Mobil Gampal, provincial administrator representing Governor Ysmael "Mang" Sali, lauded the participants and challenged them to live up to their role as the future of the country.

The summit was also part of the activities preceding the 45th Founding Anniversary of the 2nd Marine Brigade on April 29, 2023 and consistent with the unit's implementation of its line of operations on good governance, cultural cohesiveness, and harmony focusing on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

MBLT-12 eyes peace and socio-economic development in Tawi-tawi

By: 2Lt Jhon Michael E Landingin PN(M)



Socio-economic development is among the lines of effort under the Civil Military Operations of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-12 led by LtCol Junnibert S Tubo PN(M). The aim of this initiative is to support local tourism and create opportunities for employment and livelihood for the most vulnerable sectors of the community.

As the country's southern frontier, Tawi-Tawi has its own security challenges. It is for this reason that the MBLT-12 exerts effort to ensure a peaceful community and assist the province in advancing socio-economic development.

One way of doing this is by supporting efforts on local tourism to create opportunities for the people. These include collaborating with local governments in conducting Bike-for-Peace activities to promote local tourist attractions and historical sites that can possibly create opportunities for locals of Tawi-Tawi. Second, there is a need to protect vulnerable sectors against radicalization. This involves

conducting information drives to prevent and counter violent extremism through "pulong-pulong" community engagements and promoting advocacies and programs for the social development of the youth, women, and elderly. Lastly, the All-In-One "Bayanihan" mission is a collaboration among local governments, non-government organizations, government agencies, and volunteer individuals aimed at providing basic services for indigents and underprivileged civilians. It includes various medical services, magic show, and mascot entertainment, free haircut, feeding program, turnover of reading textbooks, distribution of food packs, school supplies, slippers, toys, recruitment leaflets and flyers, reading glasses, hygiene and sleeping kits, and other basic aids.

These undertakings require dedication and continuous support. The Marines have demonstrated their commitment for the people of Tawi-Tawi and have shown that they are active partners in maintaining peace and security and promoting development.



MBLT-12 spearheads Seaweeds FARMER'S ASSEMBLY

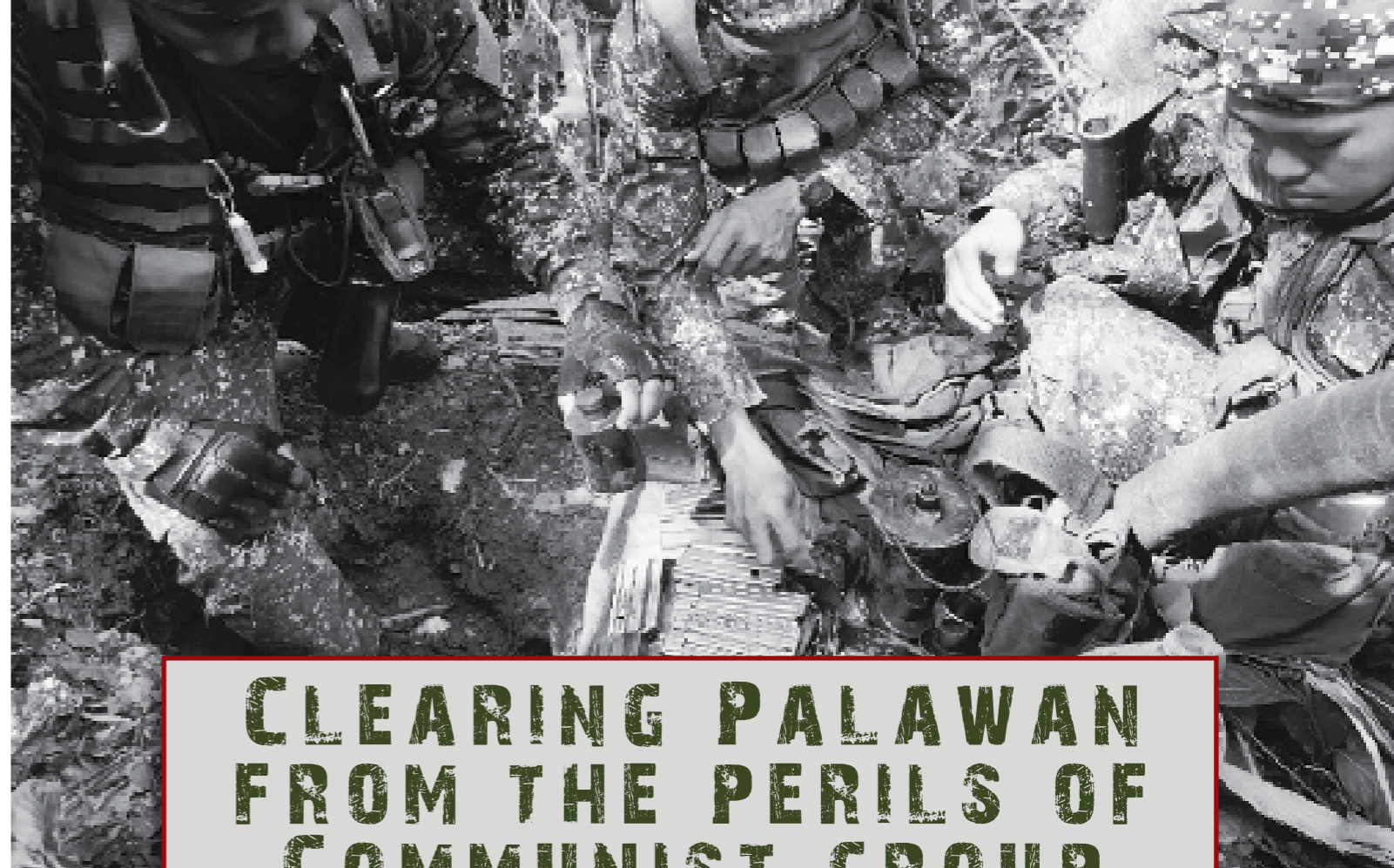
by: 2Lt Jimmy M Escote PN(M)



Seaweed farming is one of the major livelihood programs in Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi especially among the locals living in the coastal area. About 80% of the populace earn their living from this industry. It helps them improve not only their living conditions but also the marine life. However, despite having these natural resources at hand, some farmers still face daunting challenges such as lack of capital or funds, claims on the plantation area, lack of familiarity with the policies and laws governing the industry, limited assistance from the government, and limited knowledge of seaweed farming.

To address these issues, the MBLT-12 spear headed an activity to educate the farmers on seaweed farming. The unit conducted a Seaweeds Farmer's Assembly on January 23, 2023 at Brgy Sipangkot, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi together with concerned agencies such as the Association of Local Mediators in Tawi-Tawi, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Public Order and Safety, Local Government of Sitangkai, Brgy Sipangkot Council, and farmers from Brgy Sipangkot. The farmers were informed of related policies and laws in the industry, the optimum potential from seaweed farming, and the plans and projects of the government to support seaweed farmers.

The activity was well received by the farmers and raised the awareness of both the locals and the government agencies of the growing seaweed farming industry.



CLEARING PALAWAN FROM THE PERILS OF COMMUNIST GROUP

by: Cpt John Mary C Cañonaso PN(M)

The 3rd Marine Brigade remains steadfast in its unwavering commitment to protecting the country's interests, including the people of Palawan. Its effort in dismantling the Communists Terrorists Group (CTG) operating in the Province of Palawan gathered admiration from the local populace and the entire nation.

The ultimate standstill in Kilusang Larangang Guerilla (KLG) operating in Palawan was during the decisive armed confrontation that transpired in September 2020 in the municipality of Brookes Point. Three of the New People's Army's (NPA) Bienvenido Vallever Command's essential leaders were killed. The success of that military operation led to the dismantling of their group, with few remnants aspiring to recover their mass bases.

In 2021, there was a significant decline in CTG's ideological, political, and organizational activity as monitored by the military. Their dwindling support from their mass bases made them astray and scamper to different places. Due to this decline in their massive propaganda and with the relentless effort of the Joint

Task Groups partnered with the collaborative effort of Provincial Task Force in Ending Local Armed Conflict (PTF-ELCAC), it earned the sympathy of the masses. Their members opted to support government-initiated activities. The joint programs of PTF-ELCAC resulted in the continuous surrender of former rebels and sympathizers who availed of livelihood assistance from the government. Likewise, it paved the way for the recovery of more arm caches in the hinterlands. Numerous war materials including propaganda materials and subversive documents with high intelligence value were also recovered.

In the last quarter of 2021, the community support program led to several accomplishments that reversed the drive of CTGs to reclaim their stronghold. On November 10-11, 2021, the intensified synchronization of effort of the Brigade triad resulted in the recovery of various firearms and ammunition at Sitio Buwayan, Brgy Abaroan, Roxas, Palawan. This favorable achievement was immediately obtained through actionable intelligence and focused military operation. The unit can proudly say

that no single shot was propelled to gain such accomplishment.

Tracking the whereabouts of the CTGs through deliberate intel gatherings, a Focus Military Operation was launched to confirm the defeat of the remaining CTGs. On December 10, 2021, while JTG-N/MBLT3 operating forces composed of 65MC, FRG; SOP3 of MBLT-3; SOP-4 of MBLT-4 and JITU-N operatives composed of S2, MBLT-3; 3MCIC, MIG-22, NISG-W, and 300AISW were executing JTG-N/MBLT-3 OPOD "FORCE TRIANGLE," 65MC (ME) with JITU-N operatives encountered the remnants of Bienvenido Vallever Command at a Communist Party-NPA Terrorist (CNT) hideout at Sitio Bayugon, Brgy Tinitian, Roxas, Palawan. The firefight lasted for 20 minutes, resulting in the seizure of the CNT hideout and recovery of one CNT killed, identified as Arimel Padilla Rodriguez, while there was no casualty on the government side. More so, the enemy scurried in different directions and left their armaments and belongings.

Successfully reversing the CTG's drive to reclaim their stronghold was achieved through ongoing cooperation in inter-agency efforts harmonizing various initiatives and ensuring the government's successes are sustained. The 3MBde played a critical role in implementing Executive Order 70, the Community Support Program, and the Retooled Community Support Program.

The first quarter of 2022 was the reaping period resulting from the efforts of a triad operation that served as a foundation for dissolving guerilla fronts, clearing areas, and reclassifying insurgencies into the stable peace and security spectrum. Moreover, there was the incorporation of a whole-of-nation approach and services of government agencies to promote, enable, and advance the country's peace development objective.

With the assistance of various sectors in the community, pinpointing the CTGs' hideouts and weapon cache significantly aided in weakening the CTG remnants in Palawan. This unit achieved remarkable feats from January to April 2022 through intense intelligence collection and information operations that shaped and influenced the populace's behavior,



beliefs, and attitudes, and the revelation of former rebels and Militia ng Bayan resulted in the seizure of war materiel and subversive papers in the area of operation. Additionally, in the 1st quarter of 2022, the voluntary surrender of five rebels was an outgrowth of the unit's efforts to implement EO 70; their desire to reunite with their family and live a peaceful life in the mainstream of society, combined with the comprehensive benefits of the government program, compelled them to return to the folds of the law.

In the remaining year of 2022, the security situation in the province was generally peaceful and manageable. The CTG in the province had already been neutralized. It is down to one individual, Sonny Rogelio, as the lone CTG under sub-regional military area-4e, who is no longer monitored in the joint area of operation. The continued focused military operations and intelligence operations resulted in the surrender of 284 former communist terrorist group supporters, voluntary surrender of 10 regular CTG members, recovery of 38 assorted firearms, 31 anti-personnel mines, 6 rifle grenades, and 75 hand grenades.

Consecutive focused military operations, CSP sustainment activities such as barangay visits, dialogue with the community, outreach programs, indignation rallies, withdrawal of support, and declaration of CTG as persona non-grata, and other activities conducted in different barangays in Palawan as part of the implementation of EO 70 and DILG Memo Circular (169-2019) (RSCP) narrowed the CTG's playground, resulting in the voluntary surrender and recovery of armed cache. The involvement of various sectors elicited



feedback on the area's problems. The presence of Marines assisted in bringing these issues to the attention of appropriate government agencies and facilitating discussions to resolve them.

The public is now more aware of what is happening around them, particularly the atrocities and evils of communism. Communities now recognize that the government exerts every effort to address society's concerns and that they can trust the government. Likewise, communities in Palawan conducted a rally and a pledge of commitment to the government to symbolize protest and rejection of communist ideology. Through information operations, engagement with the community, especially the youth, was strengthened. The conduct of the Youth Leadership Summit and Symposiums



was also helpful.

In collaboration with the PTF-ELCAC and partner agencies, the 3MBde maintains its vigor in pursuing the remnants of CTGs and finally ending the communist's armed conflict in Palawan.

Since the second quarter of 2022, there had been no monitored activity of the CTGs in the province. On January 25, 2023, Palawan was declared as an insurgency-free province by the PTF-ELCAC and the Provincial Peace and Order Council.

These feats were made possible by the PTF-ELCAC and the unmatched ground effort of the two Battalions (MBLT-3 & MBLT-4) during the Province of Palawan's conduct of CSP and Joint Internal Security Operations.



IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE TO THE FUTURE GENERATION

by: 1Lt Jaafar T Omar PN(M)

1Lt Jaafar T Omar is 29 years old from Iligan City a member of PMA (ALAB TALA) Class – 2018 and currently designated as Executive Officer, 4th Marine Company, MBLT-4.

“Teaching is more than imparting knowledge; it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts; it is acquiring understanding”

– William Arthur Ward

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-4, together with Doris E. Martinez National High School (DEMNHS) at Brgy. Abo-Abo, Sofronio Espanola, Palawan, had entered into a Memorandum of Agreement on “Adopt a School Program” way back on September 13, 2021. With the passage of the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 or Republic Act 10533, the Department of Education (DepEd) was tasked to implement the K to 12 Program, essentially adding two years of specialization within the Basic Educational System.

DepEd designed the implementation of RA 10533 within the framework of increased community involvement in the learner’s experience with the premise that DepEd offers venues for various stakeholders to participate in the implementation of RA 10533 with the Work Immersion Program as one of the course requirements for graduation. A senior high school student has to undergo work immersion in a business organization or establishment to be exposed to and be familiarized with the work-related environment related to their field of specialization and enhance their competence. Also, it aims to hone and improve students’ technical skills and develop good work habits.

On April 12, 2023, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-4 initiated a 10-day Work Immersion Program for the Grade-12 students of DEMNHS and provided inputs into the curriculum through discussions and workshops that the teachers organized. Part of this agreement is to support the efforts to develop students’ education and skills. Moreover,



this “Adopt a School” program aims to build, establish, and sustain a mutual connection and gratifying partnership between and among school stakeholders. The objectives of the work immersion program are to supplement the formal curriculum of the Senior High School (SHS) program with special inputs coming from this unit’s experts and practitioners in order to make the SHS program aligned and consistent with work standards, develop the students’ knowledge and skills relevant to the needs of the job market in the area, provide SHS Students learning experiences by giving them exposure to the actual workplace

setting, and allow the use of and access to this unit’s workplaces and equipment. The MBLT-4 catered to 35 Grade 12 students and provided curriculum programs under the following track and strands: General Academic Strands, Accountancy Business Management Strands, and Technical Vocational Livelihood Strands-Automotive/Electrical installation. In line with this, the MBLT-4 facilitators incorporated subjects such as Basic Photography, Multimedia, Basic News Writing, Algebra, Basic Life Support, Basic First Aid, Hygiene and Sanitation, Introduction of Management, Financial Literacy, Occupational Health and

Safety Procedures, Basic Electrical Installation, Introduction to Electrical Materials and Tools, Automotive Fundamentals, Basic Wire Diagram, and Basic Automotive troubleshooting. Moreover, Introduction to AFP Organization and Preventing/Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism (PCRVE) lectures were also incorporated into the said Work Immersion Program. The Marine Battalion Landing Team-4 once again proved to be the representative of the best in soldiery not only being part of the finest elite military unit in the country but also being a role model sharing knowledge and skills, providing educational opportunities to the youth, strengthening their bond with the community, building trust, promoting a sense of unity and pride, and helping to break the cycle of poverty to create a brighter future for the next generation.



THE PAWN in the GAME of POWER POLITICS

by: Maj. Nelson P Liwanag PN(M)

MAJ LIWANAG PN(M) is a Marine Aviator and currently serving as the Director of Mobile Training and Exercise Unit of the MCFDC. He spent his career specializing in Education and Training and Admin and Personnel and with background in Plans and Programs, having previously been assigned as the Chief Capability Development Branch and ANA5 of the Naval Air Wing.

Currently, MAJ LIWANAG PN(M) is in the second year of his postgraduate degree program in ASEAN Studies specializing in International Relations and Peace and Security in ASEAN at the University of the Philippines.



Once upon a time, in a far-off land, there were three villages - each with its unique character and purpose. The first village had long enjoyed its dominant position in the west valley and wielded power over the neighboring communities. The second village had been content to live in relative obscurity for ages in the east valley, but it had recently emerged as a force to be reckoned with - thanks to its investments in infrastructure and technology. The third village was a small and peaceful community, situated close to the emerging village.

The burgeoning strength and potential of the second village sparked fear and apprehension within the first village. The emerging power posed a formidable challenge to the long-established authority of the first village, prompting the leaders to hatch a plan to stifle its growth. In their quest to maintain their grip on power, they cast their eyes upon the small village nestled close to the burgeoning rival. It was a strategic pawn in their game of power politics, a pawn that they were determined to manipulate to their advantage.

The first village began to sow seeds of discord between the small village and the emerging village. By exploiting their differences, the first village created a false narrative that war was necessary to protect the small village from being consumed by the emerging village's growing power and control over the river (South Village River), a vital source of food for all the neighboring communities. In reality, the true motivation behind the first village's actions was to stifle the threat posed by the emerging village's rapidly rising currency, which posed a challenge to the first village's dominance.

As tensions mounted, the small village found itself caught in the middle of the conflict. The looming threat of war cast a shadow over the peaceful community, and the small village feared for its future. It knew that the first village was using the tension between it and the emerging village as a pretext for war, and that the small village would be the battleground on which the conflict would be fought. As the tension grew day by day, the small village had the options to watch and wait, hoping for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. It knew that its fate was in the hands of the

first village and the emerging village, and that it would need to navigate the complex political landscape with care and caution if it hoped to survive the looming conflict. The small village understood that the active role currently being played by the first village in the valley was not to protect its interests, but rather to protect its supremacy and prevent the emerging village from challenging its power. The first village was determined to prevent the emerging village's currency from becoming the preferred currency for trade and commerce and was willing to go to war to protect its interests.

The small village knew that it needed to take action to protect its interests. As the small village faced the looming threat of war between the first village and the emerging village, it knew that it must tread carefully and strategically to protect its independence and neutrality. It should also reach out to other neighboring villages to form alliances and build a network of support. Through careful diplomacy and strategic maneuvering, the small village can strengthen its position and increase its chances of surviving the coming wars. While the conflict between the first village and the emerging village may seem distant and far removed, the small village recognized that it is on the front lines of this battle, and it must take action to protect itself and its people. The emerging village's currency could indeed become the new standard for trade and commerce, and the small village must prepare for this eventuality and act accordingly to safeguard its economic interests.

As the sun began to set over the quiet valley, the small village stood at the edge of the conflict, well aware of the dangerous game being played by their neighbors. They knew they were being used as a pawn in the first village's power play, and that the conflict was not about their interests but rather the first village's desire to maintain its dominance and prevent any challengers from rising. The small village was not naive. They understood the true motive behind the first village's actions - the emerging village's currency was fast becoming the preferred medium for trade and commerce,

posing the biggest threat to the first village's control over the entire valley and other communities. The small village's people were not content to simply sit and watch as their fate was decided by others.

And so, they refused to be mere pawns in this game of power politics. Instead, they resolved to take a stand and fight for their own interests. They knew that by aligning themselves with one side, they risked becoming the target of the other. So, they decided to promote a peaceful and stable future for all villages in the valley without taking any sides from these two strong villages. Through an independent and proactive approach, the small village was able to build a more equitable and just future for themselves and their neighbors. They refused to be caught in the crossfire of a bloody war, and instead worked tirelessly to ensure that their voices were heard and their interests protected. For the small village, the fight was not about power, but about justice, peace, and the survival of their community.

The small village totally understood that it has a responsibility to prevent wars in the valley. Simply aligning with one side in the power struggle is not a good option, as the situation is complex and could lead to unnecessary war. Instead, the village worked hard towards promoting peace and stability in the valley and advocated for the interests of all villages by taking an independent approach to the problem. By being proactive and constructive, the small village was able to create a more fair and equal future for everyone in the valley, without risking the outbreak of a violent village war.

The story of the small village is a cautionary tale about the dangers of power politics and the need for communities to stand together in the face of adversity. It reminds us that even the smallest and most seemingly insignificant actors can have a profound impact on the course of history if we stand together and adopt an independent foreign policy following the principles of ASEAN Centrality.

The Detriments of Bullies: A closer look at one of the cancers that plague our society today

By: Maj Jerber Anthony Belonio PN(M)

Maj Jerber Anthony Belonio PN(M) is a member of PMA (MARAGTAS) Class 2007 and currently designated as Operations Officer, Marine Security Escort Group



At some point in our life, we encounter bullies. These are people who, for lack of better term, are evil incarnates spawned into being in order to make other people's life miserable. We may have encountered them in school and even at work as we go through our adult lives. They come in all forms but their goal is just the same - make other people's existence a living hell. Many of them even start young. They exist as early as elementary years and most of us have encountered them as the playground bully or bullies. Most times, there is only one bully that exists in a certain environment. Typically, this kid stands out almost immediately because of his/her physique - tall, big, strong and most of the time, academically deficient. But there is also that rare instance (maybe one to three percent) wherein the bully happens to be the smartest person around. Most of the time, the bully is somebody who has so much lacking in his or her well-being that he or she is always left wanting. We have heard so many times where people deduce that the reason why a bully came to be is he or she was not hugged much as a child. As sound as the logic may be, I still beg to differ. Being a bully is a choice. Growing up miserable may not be a person's choice but he or she still has total control of how to proceed from there. Being miserable does not give anyone the right to bring misery to other people. Unless of course that person has no recognition over the concept of good and bad which in that case would bring into consideration his or her mental state. But that is a discussion better left for the medical professionals.

There are different kinds of bullies. The categories vary from a person's personal experience. Like I mentioned earlier, there is that one kid or one coworker who makes it his or her personal goal to make the people around him or her suffer. I have encountered this kind of bully early on during my elementary years and even as I went through high school. Different person but same characteristics. Now I was raised in a family that does not tolerate bullying and we were taught early on that the only way to deal with a bully is to stand up to them. And that's what I did all throughout. There were times when my assertion ended up with fists flying. There were instances when that was enough for them to leave me alone. But there are also those who cannot get a hint (academically deficient) and would still continue with their shenanigans even after taking a beating. The worst part of it is that they even have the audacity to play the victim card. I had my fair share of detention because of them. But it was worth it.

Then of course, there are also those bullies who team up with other bullies. They are the living testament that misery really does love company. Now, these kinds of bullies are hard to deal with since they are many and it is best to just get out of their way. These bullies are often encountered in high school and college environments. They are usually members of a fraternity or a gang and they take their strength in numbers. A way to stand up to them is by joining another fraternity or gang or if you can stomach it, you may as well join

them. I waltzed my way though one year in college by avoiding them. But there are still a group of bullies that are not necessarily frat or gang members.

They just kind of found each other. They are usually led by a designated Alpha - usually this person is the tallest or the strongest of the group but not necessarily the smartest. Then the minions are usually composed of wannabes who are a lot less inferior than the Alpha. They are usually composed of three to five persons in the group. They wreak havoc in the lives of peace-loving people around them. They are full of anger and take it out on other people. Their anger usually comes from their own insecurities. They tend to pick on people who are better than them. They even go as far as to go after those people who are better looking than them.

Now, what is the effect of these bullies in the lives of the people that they target? It leaves a lasting impression on those who are affected by their evil actions. We have heard stories of people who do not go to high school reunions because they were bullied. There are also those who lost their self-esteem because of their harrowing experience. But the worst of it all is that there are those who resorted to taking their own lives and these are not isolated cases. There have already been so many deaths that were attributed to bullying. Most of these cases have been among teenagers. This is something that our society must take a closer look at and work together in order to come up with an appropriate action.

I have dealt with bullies all my life. I even

have scars as remembrance for standing up to them. And I always stand up to them. I may lose against them but I will always stand up against them. Some of the scars are in my knuckles but most of them cannot be seen on my body. I hate bullies. No matter what form or circumstances a bully presents himself or herself, he or she has no place in a civilized society. Bullies are cowards hiding under the guides of misplaced machismo in order to avoid facing their own misery.

Many people have led miserable lives but they did not become bullies. Being miserable does not give anyone the right to make others miserable. The sad situation we face today is that having to deal with these kinds of people does not end after we graduate from high school or even college. They exist even in the workplace. And there are times when there are not only one but four or more. One can survive by avoiding them but there are times when they target you for no apparent reason. And the only way to deal with them is to stand up against them. It may end up with an exchange of blows and you might lose the fight (of course, these cowards will not come at you if they do not have the advantage of numbers) but I still believe that it is still the best way to deal with them - especially if no one else will. They may be taller and stronger than you or hold a much higher position than you but you cannot let them dictate how you live your life. Enough is enough.

The detriments that these bullies bring in our society has slowly become a cancer that is eating away at the people and taking away their self-esteem, their peace of mind and worse, their lives. We should see this as what it is - a problem. Harsher punishments must be meted for these cowards especially if their action led to a loss of life. We must remember that an evil act cannot be justified. Evil is evil. There should be no sugar coating. We deserve to live in a peaceful and safe society. To that end, we must fight if need be.



From a **TEACHER** to **MILITARY PERSONNEL**

by: Pvt Michael Lloyd N NacinoPN(M)

The transition from a teacher into military personnel is a significant shift in personal lifestyle and professional responsibilities. While teaching and military service may seem like vastly different fields, there are many similarities that make it possible for individuals to transition between the two.

One of the most important similarities between teaching and military service is the emphasis on leadership. Both professions require individuals to take charge of others and provide guidance and direction. In a classroom setting, a teacher is responsible for leading a group of students through lessons, assignments, and other educational activities. Similarly, military personnel are responsible for leading and directing their fellow soldiers through a variety of tasks and missions. Another similarity between the two professions is the importance of teamwork. Teachers often work together with other educators to plan lessons and share ideas. Similarly, military personnel rely heavily on teamwork to accomplish their objectives, with each member of a unit working together towards a common goal.



Communication skills are also critical in both teaching and military service. Teachers must be able to effectively communicate information to their students, while military personnel must be able to communicate clearly and concisely in high-pressured situations.

While there are many similarities between teaching and military service, there are also some key differences that must be considered when making the transition. For example, military service is often more physically demanding than teaching. The former also requires individuals to be in good physical condition. Additionally, military personnel may be required to work long hours and be away from home for extended periods of time, which can be challenging for individuals who are used to the regular schedule of a classroom teacher.

Despite these differences, the transition from teaching to military service is possible for individuals who are willing to adapt and learn new skills.

While the transition from being a teacher into military personnel seems like a significant shift, there are many similarities between the two professions that make it possible. Both teaching and military service require leadership, teamwork, and communication skills, and individuals who are willing to adapt to the physical demands and challenges of military service can successfully make the transition. With the right training and support and correct mindset, individuals can thrive in their new roles and make meaningful contributions to their country and their communities.



In the Service of Omnipotence: **MBLT-8 MARINO OTSO** **“PEACEMAKERS”**

by: Chidelene U. Pico, Business Permit and Licensing Officer-
Administrative Aide-VI LGU Sanchez Mira, Cagayan



Defense, security, and socio-economic development. These are just three of the many contributory effects of the presence of the Team Peacemakers of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-8 in the town of Sanchez Mira, branded as the “Nest of Love”, in the province of Cagayan.

Sanchez Miranians are indeed favored and blessed to have this battalion in town. Their participation in various activities of the local government unit, schools, and other institutions are given priority. During natural calamities such as typhoons and floods, the Team Peacemakers’ help is visibly seen in those trying times. During outreach programs for the less fortunate and indigenous people, they readily provide support and cooperation. Peace and order, specifically community safety, have been strengthened because of their presence in our town as well as in the neighboring areas. They have also contributed to local economic growth in the form of purchase of goods and services from business

establishments; public market, pharmacies, groceries, money remittances, banks, and restaurants/eateries are at their peaks because of the bulk number of consumers from the battalion. Trainings and programs that are relevant and helpful for the children and youth are also conducted by them. In addition, the availability of the Peacemaker Band has been widely appreciated as they participate in special occasions.

Social support to every Sanchez Miranians is readily available now in our community because they are here. Aside from being very professional in the field of work and partnerships, their connection with civilians is something that can never be traded. When time comes that the battalion will leave our town, it will be of great loss in many different aspects.

Our utmost thanks to the Team Peacemakers for the immeasurable and immense support. Long live and more power!



TRUDGING THE PATH, RIDING THE WAVES

by: Veronica Escarmoso

Every teacher was once a student. Every winner was once a loser. Every expert was once a beginner. However, all of them have crossed the bridge called “LEARNING” because in life, “Great moments are born in Great Opportunities”. Indeed it is true. As I take a glimpse at how I have journeyed my life from childhood until now, it gave me a moment to ask myself and reckon, “How far have I lived my life? I know where I am and why I am here, but I couldn’t fully realize the mystery beyond this calling.”

From my younger years until I graduated college, I grew up and studied in a religious institution. That is why reaching out to programs and missionary works is not new to me for I am acquainted with and used to it. Now since I am with the government sector and an employee of MBHTE-BARMM and as a Coordinator of Disaster Risk Reduction Management for the whole Division of Tawi-Tawi, it is my moral obligation and task to think and promote things, which benefit the common good of our society. Lead, guide and transform them into the best individuals God wishes them to be. However, do I heed this call of mine? Is it enough for me to comply with my duties in the four walls of my office and sometimes go with island visitation? It is just routine work from year to year. Hence, we cannot grow up and soar into a higher scheme of life if we just confine ourselves to usual learnings. As for me, all these things stopped when I saw a beacon of light upon knowing some of the personnel of the PHILIPPINE MARINES. With them, I gain new learnings and new experiences. Dealing with them is not new to me because we previously invited

them to join us in some activities such as clean-up drives, Brigada Eskwela, and as security during the graduation rites in schools and special occasions.

What is the difference between them now? Now, I’ve come to know them more deeply and how they live up to their core values, which are KARANGALAN, KATUNGKULAN at KABAYANIHAN, until their last breath. Gender is not a hindrance to the Corps. Male and female Marines certainly perform exemplary works to arrive at a certain goal, vision, mission, dream, and aspiration, which bring lasting peace, promote equality, and bring love, joy and compassion to all those whom they met along the way wherever, whenever they may be. They are not just the snappy soldiers we see roaming around the whole Tawi-Tawi province but in their hearts and minds, they are equipped with ideas which strengthen their linkage to one of their mandates: CIVIL MILITARY OPERATION.

To all the Marines assigned here in the Province of Tawi-Tawi, my salute to you all. You are our unsung heroes and the living saints of the time. In the wee hours when we sleep soundly, you are our guardian angels watching for our safety. You completely adhere to the value of KATUNGKULAN, which evolves in a sustainable, secure, and resilient community. This is evident in your providing security patrol assistance, bringing peace dialogue and covenants, building repairs in schools, protecting and ensuring the integrity of ballots during election period, and building relationships among locals even in the far-flung areas to address misunderstandings that hinder peace and security and that sometimes

could spiral into combat operations. In times when our community needs assistance, the Marines unselfishly offer their time and effort in delivering government services even to the farthest island. The delivery of goods, books, and other school supplies for the schoolchildren, together with the materials for technical and educational skills and development for the youth contribute positive outcomes. Furthermore, you also instill the value of sportsmanship and camaraderie among the young ones as you train them in sports and activities such as the Redshield taekwondo, arnis, rowing, basketball, shooting, soccer, and football. You too promote the spirit of ecumenism and are a catalyst of an ever-changing world as you respectfully join religious practices both in Christian and Islamic ways. For you believe in unity amidst diversity, which leads to the path of cultural sensitivity, awareness and harmony.

Nevertheless, the Marines do not stop there for they are also advocates for nature preservation. They skillfully address it in Tawi-Tawi. Trees and mangrove planting are regularly done in certain areas and coastal and community clean-up drives are always emphasized, together with the solid waste management lectures.

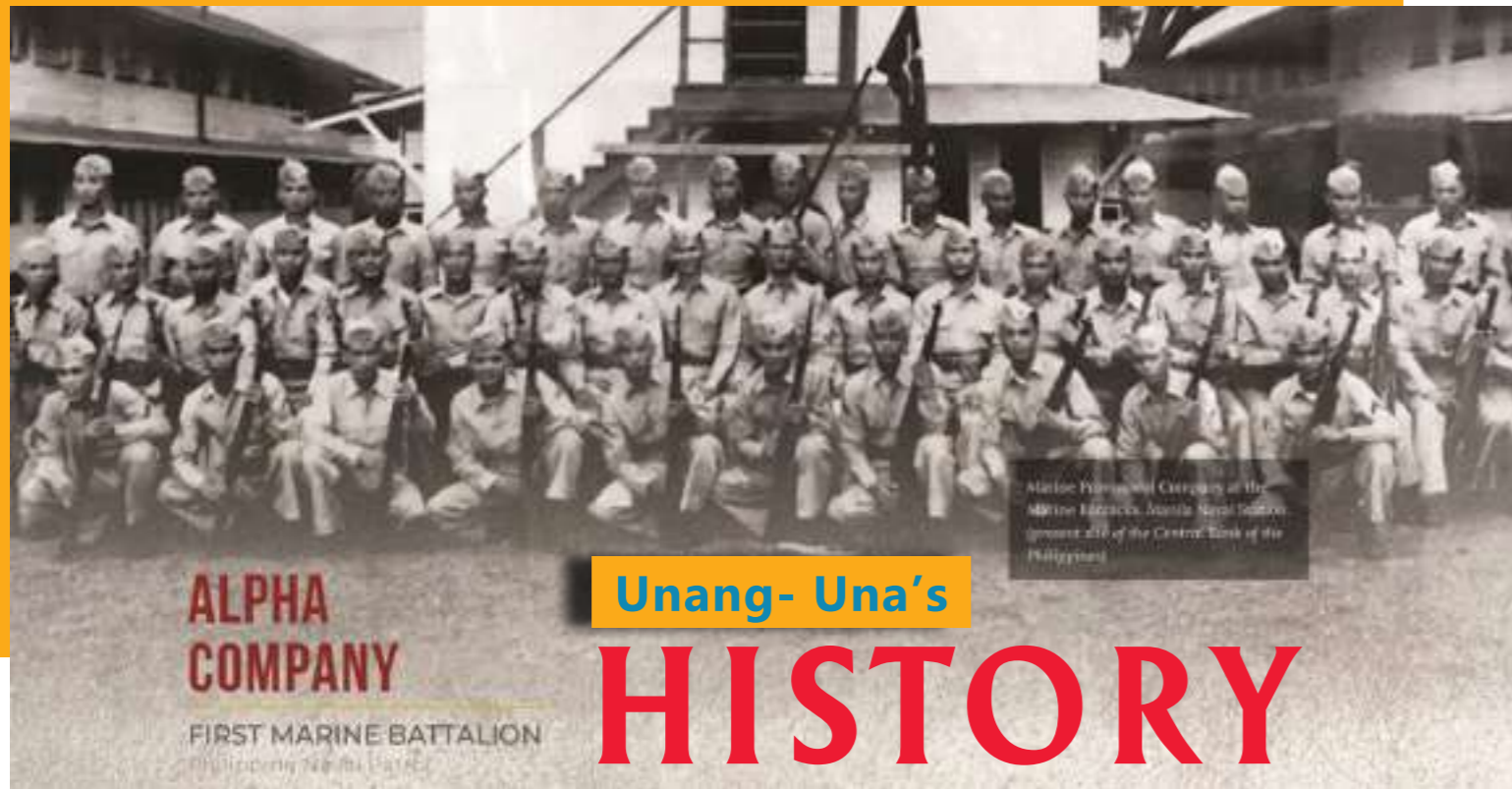
Indeed, it is a GRACE, GIFT, GRATITUDE, and GROWTH of knowing you. It is in you that I became a part of CMO activities conducted in different areas and different walks of life. As we journey together in this life-changing situation, it brings new thresholds to the communities that await our services and leave a wonderful smile on faces. At times when I spend my days working with you, I learn to love others more than myself, to be compassionate enough, and to embrace humility. Going with you on the islands of Pearl Bank, Pangan, Turtle Islands, Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi, all in the nearest border lines of Malaysia, is a great risk. However, seeing the joy in the eyes of every child simply reminds me to appreciate the value of life, for it is in them that we see the face of God. In that instance, I learn to overcome my fears and strengthen my will to move forward. Being

the DRRM focal person of the Schools Division of Tawi-Tawi is not an easy task. It requires energy to always be on the go whether in natural or human-induced calamities. The spirit of connectivity encourages us even if the weather condition is not favorable.

It was also because of you that I was able to enhance my self-esteem, knowledge, wisdom, and capabilities in the area of sports especially at the time when the Red Shield Taekwondo was initiated as a collaborative program between the 2nd Marine Brigade and TTSAT (MBHTE -SDO Tawi-Tawi). Your unwavering support and valuable assistance are our strongholds to make it through the competitions and we never fail to bring prestige and honour as we bring home winners and medals even in one of our international competitions. Thank You BGEN CHITO ROJAS, PN(M), BGEN. ROMEO T. RACADIO, PN(M), gallant OFFICERS and Men of the 2nd Marine Brigade. In addition, I would like to thank the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 headed by LTCOL RICK L GANUELAS and all Officers and Enlisted Personnel for all the wonderful experiences. Truly, these are memories that could never be forgotten. Deep within our hearts, we still believe great things come from small beginnings. We are looking forward to more meaningful collaborative programs/activities ahead.

Life is a remarkable journey with you as we jointly trudge the less travelled path and ride in the raging waves of seas that enable me to grow in faith, hope, empathy, and compassion that draw me closer to God. The smile, tenacity, and resilience you live up to everyday have taught me to understand life’s beauty amidst uncertainties and unfathomable realities. We value the gift of friendship beyond each other’s uniqueness and imperfections. Knowing you all is both a gift and grace from God. Indeed, I am so blessed. As we render our outstretched hands and hearts, I would always be there to render my service, time, and effort whenever you need my presence. Rest assured of my prayers for you, that God continues to enlighten your minds with wisdom and knowledge, guide and protect you in every endeavour you do, and gives joy, love, peace and serenity in life... And from the deepest part of my heart, I say: THANK YOU so much PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, mostly to my MBLT1 FAMILY. In our hearts and minds, we have that vision, mission, and dream to attain a small world where faith, integrity, respect, service, and excellence reside. Till then, thank you for the good memories. Thank you for being my companion in the journey and may God be with us now and always. Mabuhay, PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS!





The Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 celebrated its 51st anniversary on April 24, 2023. The Battalion was formally activated on the 21st of April 1972 as the first Marine Battalion led by LCDR RODOLFO G BIAZON PN(M). However, before it was formally activated, it was called the First Provisional Battalion composed of the fourth and fifth companies of the Philippine Marine Battalion, created to respond to the election duties in Cavite. Right after, they were deployed in Mindanao to address the growing secessionist problem in the area.

When Martial Law was declared, the unit was tasked to confiscate firearms from Private Armed Groups. Afterwards, they liberated the Mindanao State University in Marawi City, redeployed to Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, brought to Palawan to guard the Kalayaan Island Chain, and crushed a coup attempt in Camp Aguinaldo. It was in 1989 that the unit received its first KAHUSAYAN AWARD. They also figured prominently when they neutralized Abu Sayyaf forces during the Al-Madinah Campaign. For this, they received another KAHUSAYAN AWARD in 1994.

During deployment in Central Mindanao, they neutralized several gun-running syndicates and other lawless groups and accomplished several combat and non-combat endeavors including the surrender of Mashud Agtah and Itting Askalani, together with their supporters and followers and several high-powered firearms. At the same time, they established excellent mutual connections with

local government units and non-government organizations, which established good civil military relations in Basilan. The following year, the unit was transferred to Kalamansig in the Province of Sultan Kudarat to conduct internal security operations to promote and establish a peaceful and secure environment for its people. When the unit was deployed to Cotabato City, the Commission on Elections declared the unit's Area of Responsibility as having the most peaceful election in the history of Cotabato City due to the unit's effort in securing the city.

The unit was then redeployed in Sulu and involved in several military operations in hostile areas of the region. The unit conducted numerous seaborne, special intelligence combat clearing, joint combat patrol, amphibious law enforcement, and focused military and buy-bust operations which resulted in the capture and neutralization of several members of the Abu Sayyaf Group. They were able to rescue several kidnap victims and facilitate the surrender of illegal firearms in the area.

Civil Military Operations also characterized the unit. The Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 established the name, ALL-IN-ONE Mission, where CMO activities such as medical missions, food feeding, free haircut, dental check-up, distribution of toys, slippers and school supplies, and other sports-oriented activities, such as Football-for-Peace were its highlight. The unit aimed to deliver free basic services to the less privileged members of the community

and establish a genuine rapport with stakeholders. They also utilized the mobile library called, "Sasakyang-Aklatan ng MBLT-1".

For outstanding performance and achievements, the unit received several awards such as:

- Two (2) Presidential Streamers for the Year 1974 & 1994;
- Two (2) Flag-Officer-in-Command Streamer for the Year 1974 & 1999;
- Four (4) Naval Forces Western Mindanao Best Battalion for the Year 2009, 2015, 2018, 2019; and
- PMC Kahusayan "K" Award for the Best Battalion of the Year 1989, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2004, 2013, 2017-2020

Making this battalion to be the only Marine battalion to receive the KAHUSAYAN AWARD for four straight years.

The Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 would never achieve its glorious title without its excellent lineage of leaders that helped the battalion gain all of its titles and awards.

- CMDR RODOLFO G BIAZON (21 APR 72 – JUL 72)
- LCDR JOSEFINO B BUCSIT (01 AUG 72 – JAN 73)
- LCDR EUGENIO F REYES (JAN 1973 – JUN 74)
- LCDR BRAULIO B BALBAS (18 JUN 1974 – JAN 76)
- CDR EMMANUELS E GLORIA PN(M) (10 JAN 1976 – AUG 1979)
- MAJ SANTIAGO ODAN PN(M) (10 AUG 1979 – 01 JUN 1980) (16 MAY 1981 – FEB 1984)
- MAJ FELIMON GASMIN PN(M) (01 JUN 1980 – 16 MAY 1981)
- LCOL EMMANUEL R TEODOSIO PN(M) (16 APR 1986 – OCT 1987)
- MAJ RODOLFO D DIAZ PN(M) (16 OCT 1987 – NOV 1989)
- MAJ ARMANDO MELO PN(M) (30 NOV 1989 – JAN 1993)
- MAJ RODOLFO C CALAYO PN(M) (12 JAN 1993 – JUL 1994)
- MAJ JESUS S GEMENTIZA PN(M) (09 JUL 1996 – OCT 1999)
- LCOL ARIEL O QUERUBIN PN(M) (16 OCT 1999- APR 2000)

- LCOL SIBAR S PASIHUL PN(M) (01 MAY 2000 – AUG 2001)
- LCOL EUGENIO N CLEMEN PN(M) (01 AUG 2001 – 15 JUN 2003)
- LCOL ELVIN E HERMOGINO PN(M) (GSC) (15 JUN 03 – 15 JAN 04) (19 JAN 05 – 15 JAN 06)
- LCOL WILFREDO A PELINIA PN(M) (16 JAN 04 – 19 JAN 05)
- LCOL RUBEN T SIMON PN(M) (15 JAN 06 – 16 JUL 07)
- LCOL JOSE P CABANBAN PN(M) (GSC) (16 JUL 07 – 16 JAN 09)
- COL FERNANDO R GOMEZ PN(M) (GSC) (16 JAN 09 – 05 AUH 2010)
- LCOL EDWIN E AMADAR PN(M) (GSC) (05 AUG 10 – 12 APR 12)
- COL CUSTODIO J PARCON JR PN(M) (GSC) (12 APR 12 – 13 JAN 14)
- LTCOL RONALDO V JUAN PN(M) (GSC) (13 JAN 14 – 21 SEP 15)
- COL NOEL D BELERAN PN(M) (GSC) (21 SEP 15 – 30 MAR 17)
- LTCOL STEPHEN L CABANLET PN(M) (GSC) (30 MAR 17 – 06 DEC 18)
- LTCOL ASHELY N NASTOR PN(M) (06 DEC 18 – 03 AUG 2020)
- LTCOL MARVIN T SALVAN PN(M) (03 AUG 2020- 26 MAR 2021)
- LTCOL RICK L GANUELAS PN(M) (26 MAR 2021 – PRESENT)

Now, the MBLT-1 currently deployed in Tawi-Tawi with its Commanding Officer, LTCOL RICK L GANUELAS PN(M), focuses on civil military operations to establish good rapport with the civilian populace. All-in-One Missions and Community Support Program activities are steered to bridge the gap between the populace and other government agencies contributing to the promotion of progress, peace, and order in the province of Tawi-Tawi and the Philippines as a whole.

The FIGHTINGEST AND WINNINGEST battalion, the Marine Battalion Landing Team-1 has cemented its presence and identity in the accounts of history. For 51 years, the unit stood the test and challenges of time. It has proven to be one of the sharpest weapons that the Philippine Marine Corps has in its arsenal. As it moves forward, MBLT-1 is also advancing with greater motivation as part of TEAM MARINES.

Navigating the Complex Landscape:

A Junior Officer's Account of Handling Politics, Rido, and an Armed Lawless Group

by: 1Lt Jessica Shem L Quiling PN(M)



As a junior officer, I have been faced with numerous challenges throughout my career. However, the most difficult challenge I have ever encountered was when I was tasked with dealing with a complex situation involving politics, rido, and an armed lawless group. This situation required me to use all my training, experience, and problem-solving skills to bring about a peaceful resolution.

The situation began when a local politician used his power and influence to impose his political will in a remote area. This move was met with hostility by the local people, who felt that they were not consulted or given a voice in the decision-making process. This led to the escalation of rido, a form of violent conflict between families or clans, fueled by the feeling of unfairness or contempt.

The situation escalated quickly, and before I knew it, an armed lawless group had emerged, wreaking havoc on the local government structures and terrorizing the local population. For a short period of time, I was entrusted with handling the issue and keeping the neighbourhood peaceful as the officer in charge of 22MC.

The first challenge I faced was handling the complex political landscape. The local politician had a significant influence on the situation and his actions were causing a lot of tension and conflict. I had to carefully navigate this political landscape, ensuring that my actions did not escalate the situation further. I had to work closely with the local leaders, including traditional leaders and other influential people, to create a dialogue that would lead to a peaceful resolution.

The situation became more complex because of the escalation of rido involving the local politicians. This form of conflict is deeply rooted in the local culture and resolving it requires a lot of cultural sensitivity and understanding. I had to work closely with local leaders and community members to understand the causes of the conflict and to find a solution that would satisfy all parties involved.

As if the conflicting groups were not enough, another armed lawless group emerged. This group was well-armed and held a grudge against the local government unit. They had little regard for the rule of law and were terrorizing the local population. Dealing with them required a delicate balance between using force and negotiation. I had to work with my team to create a plan that would ensure the safety of the local population while also minimizing the use of force.



Throughout the entire situation, communication was crucial. I had to ensure that all parties involved were informed of the progress being made and the steps we were taking towards a peaceful resolution. This required me to have excellent communication skills and the ability to build trust with all parties involved.

The escalation of rido has a significant impact on the complex political landscape of the area. It promotes the breakdown in the rule of law and trust in government institutions; further, it reinforces the culture of violence and revenge. Due to this loss of faith in the justice system, the people in the area where rido is prevalent resorts to bringing justice in their hands by killing members of opposing clans. The involvement of the local politicians in rido creates a sense of government instability. This resulted in having ineffective governance and difficulty in addressing the needs of the community. In particular, politicians may feel compelled to ignore the needs of communities known to support or belong to clans that oppose their own, further fuelling animosity and distrust.

Despite the challenges, we were able to bring about a peaceful resolution to the situation. We worked closely with local leaders and community members to address the underlying issues that led to the conflict. This required a lot of patience, persistence, and understanding of the local culture. The challenge of dealing with politics, rido, and an armed lawless group was one of the most difficult situations I have ever encountered

as a junior military officer. However, it taught me a lot about the importance of communication, cultural sensitivity, and problem-solving skills. It also showed me the importance of working closely with local leaders and community members to find a solution that works for everyone. As a military officer, I am committed to using these skills to bring about peace and stability in all the areas where I serve.



PVT SINGKO

2Lt Ar-Gemar S Hassan PN(M)

MBLT-5 launched its new symbol, the Battalion's mascot, PVT SINGKO. To continue and strengthen the battalion's community relations, Pvt Singko was launched to perform entertainment tasks and encourage community engagements. MBLT-5 Commanding Officer, LtCol Melchor A Gonzaludo PN(M), initiated the idea of having a battalion mascot to build connections and improve civil-military relations to gain broader support from the community.

On September 7, 2022, Pvt Singko was introduced to the community of Buldon, Maguindanao del Norte. Its first appearance was during the conduct of the All-in-One Outreach Program on the same date. People - young and old, especially the children - loved the mascot's smile, groove, and friendly character.

From then on, Pvt Singko would turn out to be the highlight of every Civil-Military Operation conducted by MBLT-5 in the areas of Datu Blah Sinsuat, Barira, Parang, Matanog, Buldon, and on the small islands of Bonggo located far across the seas, where he performed "TikTok Dance". Every single time, the mascot gives entertainment to the community.

Pvt Singko stands as a proof that the MARINES is not just focused on threat elimination but also on providing happiness, selfless service, and hopes to the Filipino people, ultimately to gain and maintain lasting peace in its area of operation.

MBLT-5 Recovers War MATERIALS

by: MSgt Esau B Loterte PN(M)



The 35th Marine Company, which is part of Marine Battalion Landing Team-5 and under the operational control of the 1st Marine Brigade and 6th Infantry Division Philippine Army, achieved a successful outcome in its operation against various armed groups at Brgy Nabalawag in Barira, Maguindanao del Norte on March 12, 2023. The operation, called MBLT-5 OPORD 05-23 "WILD BOAR," was aimed at combating the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG), ISIS-inspired DI-Maute, and other similar groups.

During the focus military operations and combat clearing operations, elements of the 35th Marine Company recovered various types of ammunition, including 19 rounds of 81mm mortar ammunition, 14 rounds of 60mm mortar ammunition, two 81MM aiming sight, two 81MM Mortar Base Plates, six Rocket Propelled Grenades (improvised), five rounds of High Explosives Armor Piercing (HEAP), 12 rounds of 40mm ammunition, five rounds of rifle Grenades with Bullet Trap (BT), one round of 90mm High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT), one

PRB 423 Hand Grenade, 771 round caliber .50, four (4) M16 AI magazine assembly (corroded), one M16 AI rifle butt, one M16 AI hand guard, one M14 magazine assembly (corroded), one caliber .45 magazine assembly (corroded), and several war materials. These weapons are commonly used by armed groups to conduct terroristic activities, criminalities, violence, and wars against the government, which hinder peace and development in Maguindanao. The discovery of the high-powered firearms and several war materials restrained the armed capabilities of the enemies to conduct hostile plans and generate chaos in the communities.

1Lt John Ezekiel L Peredo PN(M) and the other personnel involved in the operation were recognized for their bravery and awarded the Bronze Cross Medal by BGen Jovencio F Gonzales PA, the ADC for Operations, 6ID, PA at Headquarters 6th ID PA on March 20, 2023. The MBLT-5 will continue to carry out its mandate of Development Support and Security Operations and the use of military force against armed threat groups.



MBLT-5's COMMITMENT IN SETTLING RIDO FOR PEACE

by: MSgt Esau B Loterte PN(M)

What Is Rido?

Rido refers to a state of recurring hostilities between families and kinship groups characterized by a series of retaliatory acts of violence carried out to avenge a perceived affront or injustice. The term rido originated in Lanao del Sur to describe a family engaging in a violent conflict with another family, and that the conflict is perceived as a collective family engagement, meaning that everyone in the family, regardless of age, gender, profession and, to a certain extent, even degree of affiliation, is deemed complicit and, therefore, a target of retaliation.

Impact of Rido Culture on Educational Aspirations

The impacts of rido culture to their educational aspirations were mostly negative. It is a hindrance to education and a financial burden. Community relationships are negatively affected and students are unable to participate in school activities and complete their projects and assignments. It can be said that the rido culture really can ruin one's life.

The Impact on Community Development

Community leaders and businessmen admit that rido, as a cycle of retaliation and a culture of violence, affects many aspects of the society and people and hinders development efforts and progress of the community. Rido causes uncertainty in the communities; stunts

economic growth, and deters opportunities for individuals and the society as whole.

Addressing the Challenge

The 35th Marine Company, headed by 1Lt John Ezekiel L Peredo PN(M), under the leadership of LTCOL MELCHOR M GONZALUDO PN(M), Commanding Officer, MBLT-5 continues to perform its mandated task in Development Support in Security Operations to include zeal commitment on Settling Clan Feuds for Peace.

From the year 2022 to present, there have been 33 rido cases settled, which were facilitated by MBLT-5 in partnership with the Philippine National Police, elders, and the local governments of Buldon and Barira in Maguindanao del Norte.

Rido settlement is a short-term solution through a peace agreement between two warring parties. This aims to bring about peace and reconciliation between the families and ensure violence or skirmishes are avoided. As rido is seen as a series of violence and as a problem that must be addressed, the Marines are always on the forefront 24/7 maintaining and performing peacebuilding activities, watching over, and playing main actors in settling family feuds or rido. However, to solve this problem in the long term, there needs to be an all-inclusive implementation of the rule of law and an immediate and fair justice system.





COLLECTOR OF DEBTS

by: 1LT Kenneth Jic S Gabucay PN(M)

“Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy.”

-Max Mayfield

Natural Phenomena

In science, Natural Phenomena is defined as the occurrence of certain events without human intervention that if thorough preparation is not given proper attention, it may lead to disasters causing damage to properties, destruction of livelihood, and loss of lives.

On October 27, 2022, Tropical Storm “Paeng” struck most of the municipalities in Central Mindanao under 1st Marine Brigade (1MBDE) Area of Operation including Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte, causing the municipality to be isolated. The main supply route of Cotabato-Datu Blah Sinsuat via Datu Odin Sinsuat was hit by landslides and many barangays were flooded. There were a total of 11 deaths and 1 missing person; 2,207 households with 9,262 populace affected, 336 domesticated animals composed of cows, carabaos, pigs, goats and horses drowned; 192 vehicles composed of motorized bancas, motorcycles, trucks and SUVs destroyed; and over 478 hectares of agricultural lands totally devastated.

Knight in shining armor

With the immediate guidance of 1MBDE Commander, BGen Eric A Macaambac PN(M) and with the direct supervision of Marine Battalion landing Team-5, Commanding Officer, LtCol Melchor A Gonzaludo PN(M), the 25th Marine Company stationed at Brgy Pura in Datu Blah Sinsuat acted as the first

responders to reach the areas in the mainland devastated by landslides and floods. Because of the rapid response, the personnel of the 25th Marine Company managed to rescue a total of 36 individuals at So. Maninggula, Brgy Matuber and evacuated around 300 families from Hattaman Village, Brgy Pura.

In the aftermath of tropical storm Paeng, in coordination with Western Mindanao Command, Philippine Navy Reservists, Local Chief Executives, government agencies, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders, the Marines from the 1MBDE and MBLT-5 were like knights in shining armor as they conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operation not only in the municipality of Datu Blah Sinsuat but also in the neighboring municipalities of Matanog, Barira, Parang, and Buldon. The Marines undertook search and rescue operation, transported donated relief goods to the affected barangays, provided security escorts during the distribution of relief goods, conducted food feeding, medical mission, psychosocial and religious activities for children, and medical mission.

Sleepless Hounds

Populace naturally occur. However, it can be prevented if given proper attention and emphasis. Immediately after the HADR operations, as part of MBLT-5 mission to conduct Development Support and Security Operations, the 25th Marine Company focused on the local government’s campaign against illegal logging, which is primary

cause of landslides and flash floods. Continuous conduct of dialogues in the coastal barangays, information drive on the effects of illegal logging, intelligence gathering, and continuous building of strong interpersonal relationships among the locals were done by every personnel.

On January 14, 2023, illegally cut lumbers were sighted being hauled by unknown personalities in the vicinity of So. Bucana, Brgy Meti. The detachment personnel immediately rushed to the area where the actual hauling was conducted and successfully confiscated a total of 4,136 board-feet of assorted lumbers with an estimated market value of Php 239,900.00. Another successful operation against illegal logging in the same barangay was also conducted on March 12, 2023 which also resulted in the successful apprehension of illegally cut lumbers with a total of 3,232 board feet with an estimated market value of Php 355,520.00

The successful apprehensions of the illegally cut lumbers were a result of timely and accurate reports gathered by the personnel of 25th Marine Company. I remember a saying that states that somehow, someday you will reap what you sow and fortunately the harvest time for all the sacrifices and efforts made by the personnel of the 25th Marine Company in the campaign against illegal logging comes to fruition.

With this achievement, the local government unit and the local populace of Datu Blah Sinsuat greatly appreciated the tireless efforts made by the Marines in their municipality. The local populace personally witnessed the smooth flow of operations from HADR activities since the aftermath of Paeng and transitioned to the consecutive apprehension of illegally cut lumbers. With this, the confidence and trust of the locals towards the Marines in the municipality grew bigger for they personally witnessed that as always, The Few and The Proud never failed to exceed their expectations.



THE MOBILE PRE-FABRICATED CONTAINERIZED VAN ESSENTIAL FACILITIES PROJECT OF THE CORPS

by: LtCol. Ruben P Matillano JR PN(M)
15th CO, SSBn, SSR(P)



It is crucial for a Marine Amphibious Ready Unit (MARU) or any Marine Operating Forces (MOFs) to have a highly mobile, durable, stable, and fast emplacement mission essential facilities especially as the Corps is now gradually implementing the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Strategy (ACDS).

Given this need, the Service Support Battalion (SSBn), as one of the sub-units of the Service Support Regiment (Provisional), has initiated and finished the Mobile Pre-Fabricated Containerized Van Essential Facilities Project through the support from Office of the Assistant Chief for Marine Staff for Operations, MC3. Each facility is made of a 20-foot containerized van that is redesigned to a Marine Corps' Mobile Mission Essential Facility, also known as "MMEF", and has its individual solar power system and brand new and durable trailer system to be tugged by at least a 2 ½ ton military truck such as M35 or KM250. The MMEFs' primary utilization is to support the mission essential requirements in terms of essential facilities for rapidly and highly-mobile employment/deployment of Marine Operating Forces (MOFs) such as MARU and Marine Rifle Battalions deployed in different areas of operations. These facilities will also serve as the sustainment hub of the MOFs which are designed as modular, durable, robust, stable, and quick emplacement that can be reconfigured to function as a command center, billeting, protection, shelter, storage, comfort, and other required spaces depending on the requirements. Also, this type of capability guarantees if not increases the survivability and preservation of both personnel and materiel/equipment of a MOF as the National Maneuver Amphibious Force especially during combat operations like the Marawi Siege and national crises like humanitarian and disaster response operations during natural calamities. Likewise, it is a strong-covered facility compared to a traditional essential facility since it is made of semi-permanent and indigenous materials which

saved the Corps a lot of resources at least for the next five years in terms of troop hutment support.

Currently, the SSBn has successfully fabricated and completed the Four units Marine Corps MMEFs including its individual brand new trailer, namely: Mobile War Room/Conference



Room; Mobile Head for Male and Female; Mobile Billeting Space (good for 8 persons); and Mobile Armory/Ammo Magazine (for small arms only) Facilities. The first two units were started on September 2, 2022 and completed on November 4, 2022 and another two units were started on January 17, 2023 and completed on March 4, 2023. The first two units were blessed and inaugurated on November 7, 2022 during the 72nd Marine Birthday, which was presided by then MGEN CHARLTON SEAN M GAERLAN PN(M), 35th Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps. MGEN GAERLAN PN(M) highlighted in his message during the inauguration that this project is very timely and very aligned with his guidance, particularly in the field of innovation,

integration, and equipping the MOF to be more adaptable and reliable forces of the Corps. He assured that he will continuously support every initiative of the unit, especially projects such as this. The other two units were blessed and inaugurated on March 24, 2023 with MGEN GAERLAN PN(M), CPMC.

This project was made possible under the leadership of LTCOL RUBEN P MATILLANO JR PN(M) the 15th Commanding Officer of the Service Support Battalion, together with his Executive Officer, MAJ RAMIL R TAGPIS PN(M) and other skilled personnel of this unit. The credit is also due to the technical support and expertise of CPT MELCHOR B ARELLANO PN(M)(Res) G3, 7MBde (Res) and as the Project Engineer and his team,

who also significantly contributed to the success of the project. Likewise, the untiring support of Marine Corps staff especially to the Office of the Office of the Assistant Chief of Marine Staff for Operations, MC3 under the helm of COL ROWAN L RIMAS PN(M)(GSC) is of great help in the realization of the project. Indeed, this is a product of the collaborative effort of all the SSBn personnel - both Officers and Enlisted Personnel, and other important personalities who gave and shared their knowledge, skills, and even resources in the fulfillment of this project.

Finally, a project such as this is a concrete assurance that the Service Support Battalion will continue to innovate in order to fully adhere to the Commandant's Guidance.



MBLT-9 (MARU)

holds Special Operations Platoon Training

by: Cpl Jolly Jr T Mateo PN(M)

-29th Marine Company, MBLT-9 (MARU)
-Strategic Civil-Military Operations NCO Course (SCMONCOC CL 22-20)
-449th MBC

Military training must prepare individuals to enter harm's way as part of one's duty and perform physically and mentally demanding tasks at the highest possible levels of proficiency. This need is the most distinguishing feature of military training as it has the potential to make the difference between life and death.

The Philippine Marine Corps' 1st Marine Amphibious Ready Unit (MARU) mandated Special Operations Platoon (SOP) military in-house training that stresses teamwork, mental, and physical conditioning, over the course of 96 days which is comparable to nearly 3 months of training in SOP history held at Bataan Technological Park Inc. (BTPI), Sitio, Pag-asa, Brgy Sabang, Morong, Bataan. The training included 34 students who volunteered to be a part of SOP CL 01-22 made up of four officers and 30 enlisted personnel.



The main goal of the SOP training was to develop the participants' knowledge, abilities, and attitude in the field of special operations and amphibious combat operations. It is based on the Marine Amphibious Ready Unit Capabilities Plan, which provides for a broad range of topics including individual warfighting skills, small unit tactics, basic lifesaving,

An SOP training has three phases. First, there is the individual or toughening phase where the physical physique of students is strengthened to cope with the intensity of the exercises. Second, the Special Operations Phase, which cultivates and trains the participants in various skills when it comes to tactical combat operations and reconnaissance patrolling. Third, the water survival training that aims to train individuals or teams with a high probability of encountering a life-or-death situation in water.

THE COMMANDANT'S PRIDE

by: Maj Jerber Anthony Belonio PN(M)



The Marine Security and Escort Group (MSEG) was activated pursuant to Section III of HPMC General Orders Number 23 dated January 20, 2000 although its effectivity was on the first day of January 2000. The Group is composed of the Headquarters Service Company, three Security Companies (91st MSC, 92nd MSC, and 93rd MSC) and one Escort Company (94th MEC). The unit was the precursor of the deactivated Marine Guard Battalion. Their initial deployment was in the House of Representatives, Senate, the Commission on Election, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and two Naval stations. MSEG also provided personnel to perform non-traditional duties. Currently, the 91st MSC is tasked to secure the premises of the Department of Foreign Affairs including the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The 93rd MSC is deployed in Malacañang compound as augmentation to the Presidential Security Group in securing the President of the Philippines, while the 92nd MSC is deployed in different vital government installations. The 94th MSE currently performs ceremonial activities such as arrival honors, parades, and review and silent drill.

The mission of MSEG is "to provide security to vital government installations and render ceremonial functions as directed by higher headquarters." In line with this and under the stellar leadership of its commander, Lt Col Hermelino E Tusi Jr, the unit has focused on keeping its personnel proficiently equipped with the necessary skills and training in order to carry out their mission. Before the end of the first

quarter of this year, the unit concluded its Silent Drill training with 28 graduates who satisfactorily met the standards required of a silent driller.

Currently, several newly reported personnel are undergoing VIP Protection and Security Training in line with the Commander's thrust that all MSEG personnel must have undergone VIPPST in order to carry out the unit's mission with utmost efficiency and in accordance with the standards of the Corps. It is very important to train our personnel in VIP Protection and Security since it is the bread and butter of the unit. Currently, we have several personnel who are deployed as security to various VIPs including senators, cabinet secretaries, and at times even the President. And owing to the rotation of troops, MSEG must always have well-trained personnel ready to relieve those who are deployed when the time come that they have to undergo schooling to further their careers or when they go on R&R. The training directorate of MSEG, through the guidance of our Group Commander, has started the process of institutionalizing the VIPPST in order to have a smooth conduct of training for future classes and with the anticipation of expanding the training to other Marine units as well.

Being dubbed as the Commandant's Pride, much rests upon the shoulders of MSEG. That is why we are doing our best to live up to such expectations. Preparation through training is just one of the ways that we remain committed to our mission. With the leadership and guidance of our Group Commander, we remain steadfast in our goal of reaching greater heights.

The 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) Support for the PMC Coastal Defense Regiment

Col. Roberto Emmanuel T Feliciano PN(M)(MNSA)(RES)

Since 2020, the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) have worked to integrate and capacitate Marine Reservists, who could apply their knowledge and background to assist the Corps as Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in their respective fields. In this regard, the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) provides reservists with skills as engineers, builders, and planners for various PMC projects and works with PMC units such as the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Logistics, MC4 through the Naval Reserve Center - National Capitol Region (NRC-NCR) in coordination with the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retirees Affairs, MC9. Among the reservists from the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) who have been performing since 2020 include LTCOL GRACIANO A RUZ O-132987 PN(M)(MNSA)(RES), CPT MELCHOR B ARELLANO O-150181 PN(M)(RES) and 1LT DIANNE MARIE C MALONZO O-154916 PN(M)(RES). LTCOL RUZ, CPT ARELLANO, and 1LT MALONZO were part of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the PMC Replication Plus Project to engage the contractor TCGI for the successful implementation of the needed work for the Replication and Relocation Project of the new Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps in Morong, Bataan. These Marine reservists assisted the PMC TWG to engage the consultants and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

LTCOL RUZ is a licensed professional architect and master planner and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1 for the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve). CPT ARELLANO is a licensed Civil Engineer, while 1LT MALONZO is an Architectural Finishing Specialist and assigned to the Headquarters 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) as Assistant Operations Officer, AOO and Operations Officer, S3 at the 74th Marine Battalion (Reserve) of the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) with 1LT MALONZO as Commander, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve).

Since 2022, the named reservists have been assisting other PMC units for their engineering and works requirements. PMC engaged LTCOL RUZ to support the requirements of the Coastal Defense Regiment (CDR); he undertook geologic and soil investigation and the topographic survey for the sites that will house the intended CDR capabilities.

As Marine Reservist and Civil Engineer and Architectural Finishing Specialist respectively, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO were designated as Technical Resource Persons for infrastructure and staff works in support of the Headquarters CDR Logistics Section (R4).

In January 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO participated in the - Initial Planning Conference for CDR projects in several Technical Positions (TP1, TP2, TP3).

In February 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO undertook planning for the construction phase requirements and timeline for Technical Position 1 in Zambales.

In 03 February 2022, they conducted a site inspection at Technical Position 1 NSLG, Zambales near the AABN Area together with the CDR TWG and their contractor.



Above: Site inspection at TP1 NSLG, Zambales near the AABN Area together with Themis personnel, CPT MELCHOR B ARELLANO, 1LT DIANNE MARIE C MALONZO and CDR Technical Working Group.

On 02 March 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO, together with the CDR TWG, conducted a site inspection at Technical Position 1 NSLG, Zambales in order to provide updates and planning for land development of the project.

On March 14-18 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO conducted a site inspection at Paredes Air Station, PAF, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte with PMC Technical Survey Team and the proponent survey team.

On April 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO held discussions regarding updates on the Plans and Bar Chart schedule for construction and project execution plan for Technical Position 1 Zambales.



Above: Site Inspection at Paredes Air Station, PAF, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte



Above: Site Inspection at Paredes Air Station, PAF, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte with PMC Technical Survey Team, CPT MELCHOR B ARELLANO and the proponent survey team.

On April 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO held discussions regarding updates on the Plans and Bar Chart schedule for construction and project execution plan for Technical Position 1 Zambales.

On May 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO participated in the planning for construction phase requirements for the implementation of Technical Position 1 at Zambales.

On June 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO conducted discussions of the requirements needed for pre-construction phase for Technical Position 1 at Zambales.

On 27 July 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO conducted a site inspection for land development progress at Technical Position 1 in NSLG, Zambales together with the CDR TWG.

On 16 August 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO held discussion with LTCOL PEREZ, MAJ TUBO, CPT

ASUNCION, and CPT DE LUNA, on updates for Technical Position 1 in Zambales, detailed scope of works, secure final complete plans, Gantt chart, methodology of execution, and the project execution plan.

On 18 August 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO participated in discussions with all AFP, PN and Marines TWG for the CDR project. They discussed the survey plan and required site parameters. This included the responsibilities and functions of different units as primary and secondary support. They also discussed the proposed location for Technical Position 2 in Oyster Bay, Palawan and required suppliers to submit the Project Execution Plan for Technical Position 1, Technical Position 2, and Technical Position 3.



Above: Site Inspection with discussion with proponent Executives and Engineers and LTCOL PEREZ at Oyster Bay, Palawan.

On 16 August 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO participated in presentations attended by the AFP, PN, and Marines TWG with the proponent and contractor for the Project Execution Plan, Survey Parameters of Technical Position 1, and concerns on Technical Position sites. Included in the discussions were the issues and concerns of the proponent regarding Technical Position 1 and resolved the issues. The group also discussed the parameters for the site selection for Technical Position 2 and Technical Position 3, which includes the Geo testing for proposed sites and procedure for the site approval.



Above: 18 August 2022 Conference attended by CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO



Above: 31 August 2022 Conference attended by CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO

On 08 September 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO attended the meetings by CDR and PN members of the TWG with the executives of the proponent and contractor. The contractor presented their progress report for Technical Position 1 at Zambales. The group also discussed the validation by PMC Engineers for the value engineering design of the structural plans with reference to the soil analysis report.

From 12-13 September 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO conducted site inspection at proposed Technical Position 2 in Oyster Bay, Palawan together with the proponent executives and CDR TWG. The group discussed with proponent executives the advantages and potentials of the proposed site for Technical Position 2 in Palawan

In October 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO conducted monitoring and discussions regarding updates on the land development on Technical Position 1 in Zambales.



Above: Discussions with proponent executives the advantages and potentials of the proposed site for TP2 at Palawan.

In November 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO participated in discussions regarding the updates on the land development construction of Technical Position 1 in Zambales.

In December 2022, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO participated in discussions regarding the updates on the land development construction and issues and concerns of Technical Position 1 in Zambales.

Apart from assisting CDR, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO previously assisted the TWG in the formulation of the Site Development Plan for the Combat Service and Support (CSS) Satellite School, which is to be located at Colonel Ernesto Ravina Air Base ("CERAB") in Capas, Tarlac. For this purpose, CPT ARELLANO and 1LT MALONZO were provided orders and have been acting in a concurrent capacity to support O/MC4 since October 2020. Work has been continuing and as of 17 August 2022, Headquarters Philippine Air Force (HPAF) concurred on the colocation of the PMC CSS facility and the submitted metes and bounds of the 17-hectare facility.

The use of the named reservists here from the 7th Marine Brigade (Reserve) provided the opportunity for the Philippine Navy and the Marine Corps to optimize the integration and capacitation of its Reserve Component whose expertise and background are not readily available in the Regular Force. Their utilization demonstrates the appropriate match of skilled reservists to the requirements and how it enables the service to meet their objectives by the use of a Total Force of regular and reservist Marines.

PMC joins BALIKATAN 38-2023

Cpl Mary Joy M Hayahay PN(M)

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the US INDOPACOM saw the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) take center stage. Held from April 11 to 28, 2023, the exercise aimed to enhance regional security operations, strengthen interoperability, and develop partner-nation capabilities for planning and implementing military actions.

The PMC's participation in the 38th iteration of the BALIKATAN exercise was nothing short of remarkable as it engaged in training exercises across various training grounds in Luzon. The exercise's theme, Maritime and Coastal Defense, lent itself to exercises that emphasized the PMC's capabilities and equipment while promoting capacity building through integration and advancing regional security cooperation and collaboration.

Close Quarter Combat, Amphibious Raid, Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Bilateral Close-Quarter Combat Drills and Techniques, Special Operations Training, Amphibious



Photo by: MBLT-10

Reconnaissance, Pekiti-Tersia Kali Subject Matter Expert Exchange, and Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise were among the key training exercises that the PMC took part in. Notably, the PMC was involved in the Combined and Joint Littoral Live Fire Exercise, further showcasing its combat readiness and interoperability with the U.S. military.



Photo by: MBLT-4

Reconnaissance, Pekiti-Tersia Kali Subject Matter Expert Exchange, and Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise were among the key training exercises that the PMC took part in. Notably, the PMC was involved in the Combined and Joint Littoral Live Fire Exercise, further showcasing its combat readiness and interoperability with the U.S. military.



The BALIKATAN exercise stands as a testament to the AFP's preparedness to face any security challenges, with the PMC's participation highlighting the organization's commitment to developing its capabilities and enhancing its partnerships with other countries. The lessons learned from the exercise will undoubtedly prove useful in future joint training exercises, further strengthening the AFP's preparedness to face any security challenges that may arise.



2023

PMGOSAI

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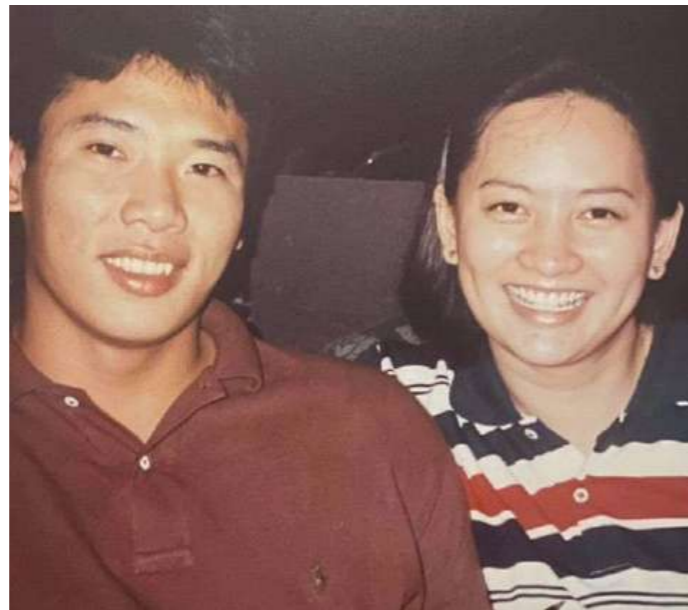
by: Mrs. Maria Irene Belonio



Fate is sometimes just a series of intertwined events that lead to a certain ending. At times, there are circumstances where we expect a different outcome yet the contrary happens. These are when it seems that the universe has conspired to bring us to the path we are currently on. Such is the life story of the new adviser of the Philippine Marine Corps Officers' Spouses Association, Incorporated.

No one would have guessed that the lass from Imus, Cavite whose passion for cooking and baking made the kitchen her happy place would find her way to the world of the military. Before she became the wife of a Marine officer, Mrs. Elmina Rojas had her sights set on a rather different path. After graduating with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management from St. Scholastica's College and also a graduate of John Robert Powers, she proceeded to work with Cathay Pacific as a flight attendant. Eventually, her happy place called her once more and she took the duty of managing their family business of bakeshops and restaurants. Growing up with the love for baking, she took up various short courses in cooking and baking with renowned chefs.

Although she was once featured as a Kaydet Girl for The Corps – the official publication of the Philippine Military Academy, she did not have any direct connection to anyone in the military. Her only link was the then Cadet Chito Rojas who was her schoolmate in elementary and high school at De La Salle Zobel in Alabang. They did not see each other after graduatin high school since they went on to pursue their own college aspirations.



But as fate would have it, they accidentally met once again when Ens Rojas was in Fort San Filipe, Cavite City taking up Naval Officers Qualification Course Alpha. And the rest, as they say, is history.

It was only when they transferred at the Senior Officers' Quarters that Mrs. Rojas was able commit as an officer of the Philippine Marine Corps Officers' Spouses Association, Incorporated (PMCOSAI). Her first stint, was during the incumbency of Mrs. Salamat as the Adviser of PMCOSAI. She again served as an officer during the term of Mrs. Anna Parreño. During the term of Mrs. Edna Casem, Mrs. Rojas was elected President of the association. Even after her term as president, she still continued her committed service as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Upon her assumption as Adviser of PMCOSAI, her guidance to the officers was to give emphasis on their mission of a dedicated organization of Marine spouses that works hand-in-hand with the Philippine Marine Corps in helping build strong military families through empowerment, education, and social advocacies to help our Marines maintain mission readiness. She also urged them to concentrate on supporting the dependents in order to strengthen the Marine families. Different projects that aim to uplift their morale and enhance their livelihoods are being developed to help contribute to the well-being of the dependents. Another look of the organization are the orphans of our Marines who

lost their lives in the line of duty. Enhancement of educational programs are in the pipeline to cater to more children of our Marine heroes.

Before the year ends, PMCOSAI aims to conduct fellowships and a field trip with the Philippine Marine Corps Enlisted Spouses Association (PMESA) to get to know the wives of our enlisted Marines. A series of financial literacy talks are also lined up with the goal of imparting the necessary knowledge towards financial stability not only to our Marine wives but also to our Marines as well. There will also be livelihood talks and projects that could give our members insights towards earning extra income. The association will also conduct fundraising activities to support our scholars. There is a proposal to increase the allowance of our scholars and give additional incentives to excellent students.

It might have been a twist of fate that Mrs. Elmina Rojas eventually became the wife of the Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, but it was their destiny. It was always said that

behind the success of man is a woman. In this case it is a strong, skilled, and independent woman. In a time when there are issues that create a veil of uncertainties within the ranks of our gallant warriors, it is but perfect timing that the Marines and their wives are given strong leaders.



Another *Wetpark Adventure:* **Continuing a Father's Legacy**

by: Mrs. Maria Irene Belonio

When we came into this world, we all started as children full of hopes and aspirations. No matter what destiny has in store for us, we have experiences being so small and having to look at everyone and everything. As our innocent minds were shaped into what it is today, we came to know about heroes and began to admire some of them. As children, we often dreamed of doing extraordinary things just like the heroes that we wanted to emulate. And just like what we frequently hear, it is true that not all heroes wear capes. Some of them wear combat boots.

Just like last year, the Philippine Marine Corps Officers' Spouses Asso-

ciation, Incorporated (PMCOSAI), together with the Marine reservists led by Brig. Gen. Rodylyn Manzano PN(M)(RES), had another collaboration with Ms. Abigail Kalalo by giving an inspiring tribute to our Marines who sacrificed their lives and limbs in order to keep our peace and maintain our much-enjoyed freedom. This endeavor was also a fitting gesture by Ms. Kalalo as she is a daughter of a Marine reservist who were battle casualties had the opportunity to enjoy an exclusive use of the first indoor aqua playground in the country.

Continue on next page...





of Motolite products, Lt Col Emmet Rodion Manantan PN(M)(RES), Lt Col Juan Maria Pablo Nañagas PN(M)(RES), Lt Col Nicolas Manalo PN(M)(RES), and Lt Col Claro Panis. The activity was also covered by several media channels through the efforts of 1Lt Dante Perello PN(M)(RES).

It was a very memorable day not only for the children but more so for our Marines who sacrificed so much in the service of our country and people. Being a wife of a Marine who was also a battle casualty, I can see that this activity meant so much to him and to the other Marines. Of course, it also meant so much for me and our children because it is not every day that people go out of their way to come up with a tribute to honor the sacrifices of our Marine heroes. That is why we are very grateful to Ms. Abigail Kalalo and Mr. Patrick Kirk Ang of Waterpark Adventure Lagoon for a very memorable experience.

So, as the country celebrated the 125th anniversary of our independence, the children of our Marine heroes were again treated to a fun-filled experience inside the Wetpark Adventure Lagoon at Venice Grand Canal Mall at McKinley Hill, Taguig City. Seventy children of our Marines

One can see the happiness of the children as they played with the attractions inside the water park. There was a zip line for the children who met the height requirement while the others used the different waterslides, giant water guns, and hanging bridge.



Of course, this activity would not have been possible if not for the efforts of the PMCOSAI headed by our adviser, Mrs. Elmina Rojas, and our president, Mrs. Anna Marie Fernandez. Special thanks also go to Brig. Gen. Rodylyn Manzano PN(M)(RES) who is always ready give her wholehearted support for our Marines.

It was indeed a very memorable tribute to the children of our Marine heroes and a stellar salute to a father's sacrifice.



The children left the waterpark exhausted from the three-hour activity but with a big smile on their faces. After the water adventure, they were treated by meals and toys from McDonalds courtesy of Ms. Marie Angeles of the Ronald McDonalds House Charities, snacks from Mr. Brian Tanchanco of Taters Entertainment Snacks, vitamins and Uniqlo clothes for the mothers from Makati Medical Center Foundation through Dr. Victor Gisbert and Ms. Marge Barro, and other expenses were shouldered by Sgt Rommel Roy Reyes PN(M)(RES), the COO of Batparts Supply Co.,Inc., distributor





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INITIAL REQUIREMENTS	INITIAL REQUIREMENTS	
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PMCVISION: "BY 2028, PMCV shall be our Maritime Nation's Highly Amphibious-Force-In-Readiness for Archipelagic Defense that brings lasting pride and inspiration to our people."



MASA 2023
Photo by: Sgt David Q Balisi PN(M)



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atungkulan
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