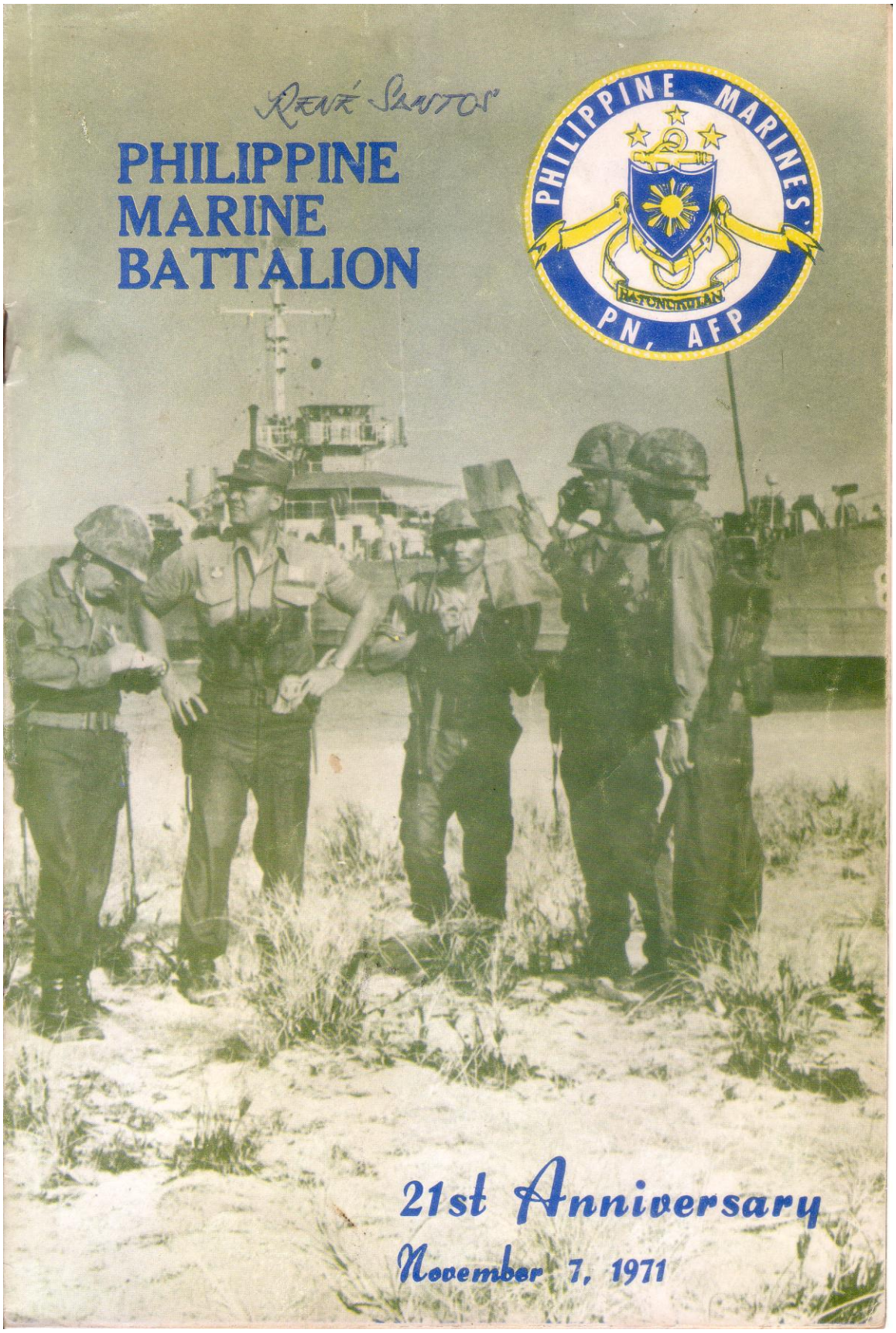
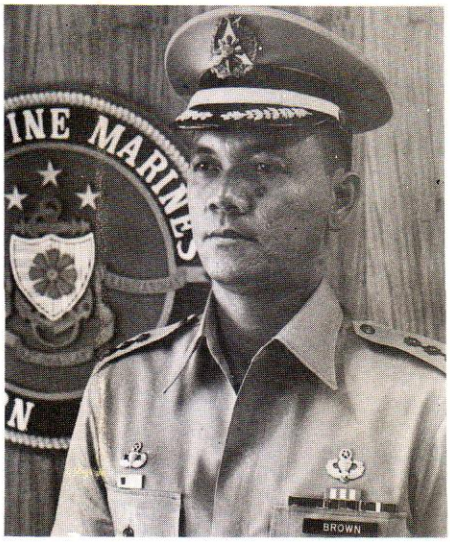

René Santos
PHILIPPINE MARINE BATTALION
PHILIPPINE MARINES
MATONCIKULAN
PN, AFP
21st Anniversary
November 7, 1971

HEADQUARTERS
PHILIPPINE
MARINE
BATTALION
Fort Bonifacio
Rizal



MESSAGE

Today, we celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Philippine Marine Battalion. This year's celebration is held significant, as it marks the accelerated phase of our expansion to the size unit we have long dreamt of becoming. As an immediate consequence, we saw our unit being involved in vital roles in national security. We also saw our unit called upon, once more by the people, in a nation-wide campaign for the conduct of an honest, orderly and peaceful election in order to preserve the sanctity of the ballot. All of these, together with our inherent missions, we have so far accomplished with marked distinction.

While we rejoice at these achievements, I call upon all Marines to pause for a moment during this occasion, and make an honest-to-goodness appraisal of what each and every one has done in the past year. I ask of you to find out what significant contributions you have rendered to our unit, to the AFP and our country. I ask of you to determine, honestly, whether what you have done merit acceptance from all. And if what you accomplished deserve their approval, I ask you to continue to strive harder and sacrifice, so that we can maintain the trust and confidence of the people.

Our successes in the past have not been easy. As we continue to attain our objectives, there will be more difficulties which will bear upon us. But with such fine breed of officers and men under my command, I am confident that nothing is impossible.

Congratulations to all Marines!

RUDIARDO A BROWN
Captain, PN (GSC)
Commanding Officer

After a long wait

RECOGNITION

THIS month marks the 21st year of existence of the Philippine Marines; twenty-one long years which saw the unit slowly rise from a company of 230 men to an expanded battalion of ten companies. The growth was indeed very slow, occasioned more because of necessity and exigency rather than because of definitely determined plans. Even its birth was dictated by actual necessity.

Specialists in amphibious warfare

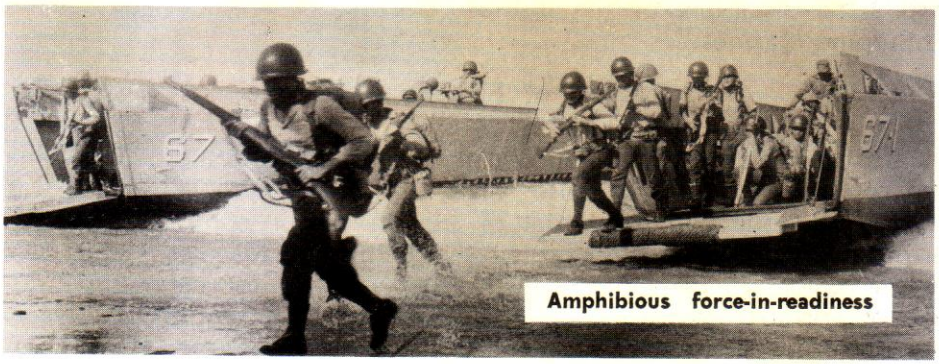
Immediately after its inception, the first Marine outfit proved its usefulness and facility in the specialized field of amphibious operations. With this peculiar skill, the Marines established itself as a distinct and unique organization from other AFP units.

Enduring training, discipline

But not a few reserved their judgment for the fate of the then fledgling Philippine Marines. Some people doubted whether the rigid training, stern discipline and **gung-ho** spirit of the Marines will endure with the passage of time, as had befallen some other supposedly elite units. Others questioned outright its existence, for could not the same rigorous training be given and stern discipline be imposed upon all other soldiers?

An institution

The history of the Marines has proven the doubters wrong; throughout the years the unit preserved and maintained its distinctive traditions, its tough training and its enviable **esprit de corps.** All these, however, have not escaped public notice. Little by little, the Filipino people have come to appreciate and value the Philippine Marines as an institution, and the ideals of soldiery that it stands for.



Amphibious force-in-readiness

Character of instability

In spite of its actual existence and its acceptance by the people, the Philippine Marines, as a unit, "does not have character of stability or distinction of being an established arm of our military forces."

Philippine Marine Corps

Very soon, this instability of status may no longer be true. There was introduced during the Seventh Congress of the Philippines a bill creating a Philippine Marine Corps, utilizing the existing Philippine Marine Battalion as its nucleus, "as an amphibious force-in-readiness for the national defense of the country."



Paragon of Filipino ideals of soldiery

Example of stern discipline

The distinguished authors of this proposed Marine Corps Act (Senate Bill No. 723), in their explanatory note emphasized the urgent necessity of the bill "due to the imperative need of our nation to stabilize its military policies and to return the high morale and stern discipline of the military forces as exemplified by the Philippine Marines."

Symbol of Filipino soldiery

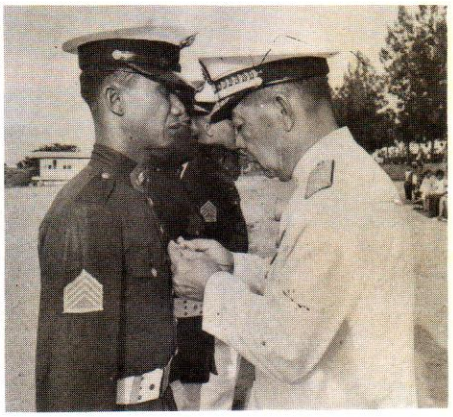
In choosing and singling out the Philippine Marines to assume the role as a primary defense force, the same authors justified it thus: "No one will deny that of all the major commands of the armed forces of the country, only the Philippine Marines stands out in full colors in discipline and morale, whether for ceremonial duties, or combat purposes. It has attracted the attention of all sectors of our society that the demands for its services have been

sounded from Batanes to Sulu, to wit: it was the Marines who brought a semblance of peace and order in Ilocos Sur during the hectic political struggle for supremacy in that violence-torn province in 1969; it was the Marines who subdued the 'Suzuki Gang' that terrorized the province of Batanes; it was the Marines who fought the pirates and smugglers in the southern part of the Philippines; it is the Marines who have been the symbol, the paragon of Filipino manhood and courage, as they stand guard before the monument of our national hero, Jose Rizal, for all foreign visitors to admire. Indeed in all emergencies, the first call of the people is for the Marines, and for security purposes, such as in the case of the Constitutional Convention, the services of the Marines were the ones demanded."

Reputation of integrity, impartiality

According to the authors of the bill, the Marines have the "reputation of integrity, impartiality and for being non-political, that even the Commission on Elections asked for the Marines to act as its 'trouble-shooters'." Therefore "it is but logical and reasonable that such a splendid military force be given due recognition for its excellent performance unheard of any unit of similar or larger size."

Guarded traditions



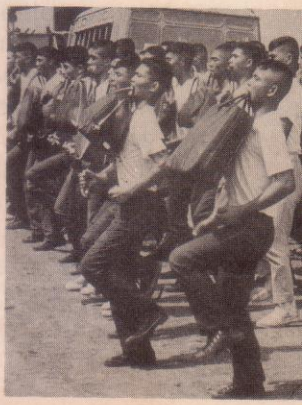
Honor, duty, patriotism

When this bill becomes a law, thereby granting legal status to the Marines' **de facto** existence, it would in effect be the ultimate recognition, a final fitting tribute by the people the Marines have sworn to serve, to a splendid unit whose long history is replete with, though little heard of, heroic deeds in the face of adversity, a unit which has jealously guarded with lives its noble traditions of honor, duty and patriotism above everything else. It would be a recognition which was long-delayed in coming; indeed, a recognition after a long wait. — vbb

The making of a Marine



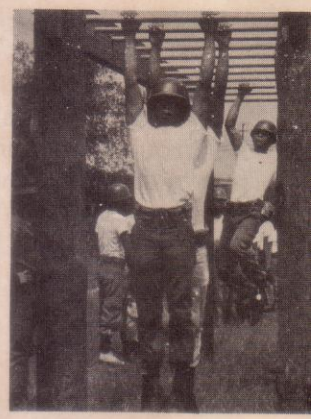
From eager boys
to confident men



Galloping in place — k



Every round counts





Helicopter-launched raiders



The D.I. — Drill Instructor, Drea
ed Inferno, Demanding Impo
sible, Devil 'Imself — all star
and ends with this disciplina
invincible.

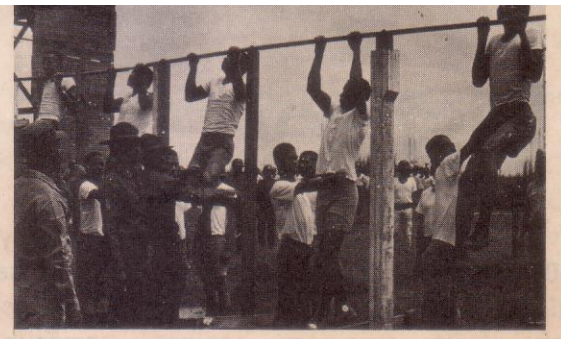




vaist high



Bats hanging?



The chin should conquer the bar



Heads down to survive enemy fire



No ladders — only ropes — from the air to enemy grounds.

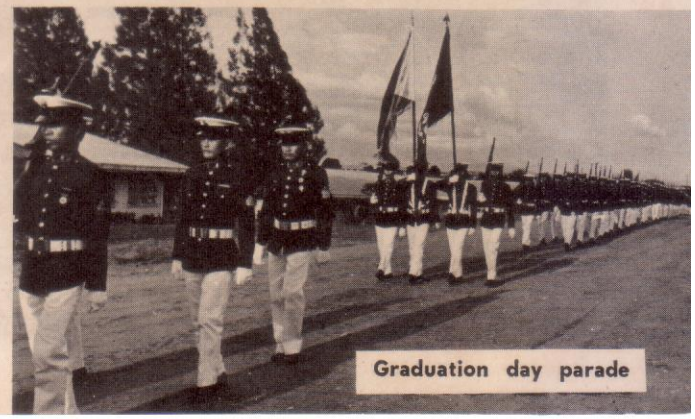
Combat superiority is the product of sustained and rigid training as only the Marines can do it in the best traditions of soldiery.



Thrust!



Potential black belters



Graduation day parade

History

THE organization of a Philippine Marine unit was originally conceived in early 1950 by the late President Ramon Magsaysay, then Secretary of National Defense. The AFP during this troubled period was at the height of its campaign against communist-inspired dissidents and plain outlaws. The "Huks" posed a real threat not only in Central Luzon but also in Manila and other neighboring provinces, and lawless bands in the southern Philippines engaged in piracy, banditry, smuggling, and other nefarious activities.

Secretary Magsaysay advocated for the creation of a Marine unit to serve as a ready sea-borne striking force to be employed specifically against dissidents and outlaws entrenched in coastal hideouts, and to provide security for government installations and naval bases and stations.



On November 7, 1950, the first Marine unit was formally organized and designated as "A" Company of a future Marine Battalion. Its initial strength of 230 enlisted personnel was composed of Navy non-com volunteers and civilian recruits. The six officers were all volunteers from the Navy, with the job of Commanding Officer given to then Lt. Manuel Gomez.

Barely six months after its organization, the new Marine outfit received its baptism of fire in the anti-dissidence campaign. After that, "A" Company participated in various military operations conducted by the AFP, either together with other services, or operating alone as a single unit.

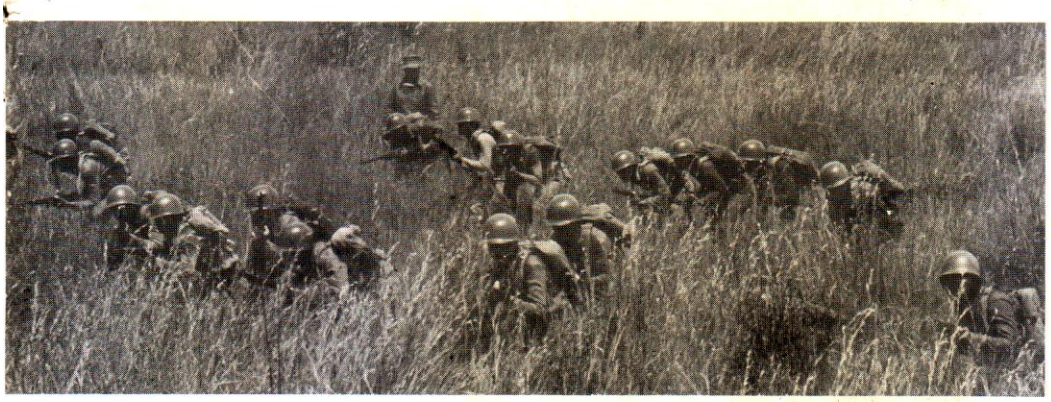
The performance of "A" Company (later renamed 1st Marine Company) in its assigned tasks justified its creation. Soon demand for Marine troop deployment increased. To meet these rising needs, the 2nd Marine Company was activated in 1955. A month after, it was assigned as security for Manila Naval Station, and was later deployed as striking force for Task Force 05 in Sulu, finding itself involved in operations against piracy and smuggling.

As the years passed, more units were organized in the expanding Marine Battalion to meet deployment commitments. On 12 March 1958, the Headquarters and Service Company was established. On 7 November 1961, the 3rd Marine Company was activated and immediately given the mission to secure from looters and pilferers the national shrine at Corregidor and to provide escort for visiting dignitaries and tourists to the island.

The Weapons Company was activated on 10 April 1966, with the mission of providing close support and anti-tank defense for the rifle companies. The 4th Marine Company was organized on 1 April 1970, and was immediately dispatched for duty to the AFP Southwest Command (SOWESCOM) after its training. The year 1971 saw the rapid growth of the Marines. On 7 June, the 5th Marine Company was activated and on 16 October, the 6th and 7th Marine Companies.

The Marine reserve component is the Reserve Marksmanship and Sniper Detachment. Activated on 27 August 1969, the unit is composed of accomplished rifle and pistol shooters, and was given the peacetime mission of providing basic (military) and advanced (competitive) marksmanship training. During wartime the Detachment could be organized into teams to provide sniper support to ground operations.

In the course of the Battalion's 21-year existence, Marines have been literally around the whole breadth of the country performing their assigned missions: police duties during the bloody 1951 elections in Negros; keeping the peace in Batanes after the '69 elections; policing the '69 elections in the Ilocos; anti-dissidence campaign in Central Luzon, Quezon province and Bicol region; security, law enforcement and anti-riot duties in metropolitan Manila; anti-smug-



Replete with heroic deeds in the face of adversity



Ready striking force

gling in the Sulu sea area; border patrol along our sea frontiers in the South. The '71 elections saw the first deployment of the novel Marine Tactical Battalion, composed of two or more rifle companies. Mindful of the Marines' unblemished record and heeding the public clamor for non-partisan troops, the COMELEC sent one Tactical Battalion each to the provinces of Cavite and Sulu where the elections was feared to be bloody

Judging from popular clamor, the Philippine Marines has indeed performed well, for whenever and wherever trouble erupted, be it plain lawlessness, dissidence, threat of foreign encroachment or policing election "hot spots," the general public demanded for Marine troops to be there.

The Philippine Marines is presently an expanded battalion consisting of a Headquarters and Service Company, a Weapons Company and seven numerically designated rifle companies. Its unit colors fly the Anti-Dissidence Campaign and Jolo Campaign streamers. During its countless operations against dissidents and outlaws, many individuals have distinguished themselves as "true Marines" — the finest in soldiery — facing the enemy with a rare courage and determination, and in the process, many offered the supreme sacrifice. By their exemplary performance of duties, they have carved for themselves and their unit a niche in the Filipino people's heart and have enriched the Marines' noble and colorful tradition of duty, honor and patriotism.

Past Commanding officers: Lt. Manuel Gomez, Lt. Commander Gregorio Lim, Lt. Commander Antonio Javier, Lt. Commander Rodolfo Punsalang, Lt. Commander Rafael Redublo and Commander Cesar Betita.

MARINE OATH

I swear to my God and to my self, that from this day on, I will uphold the traditions, submit to the discipline, and carry out the mission of the Marines.

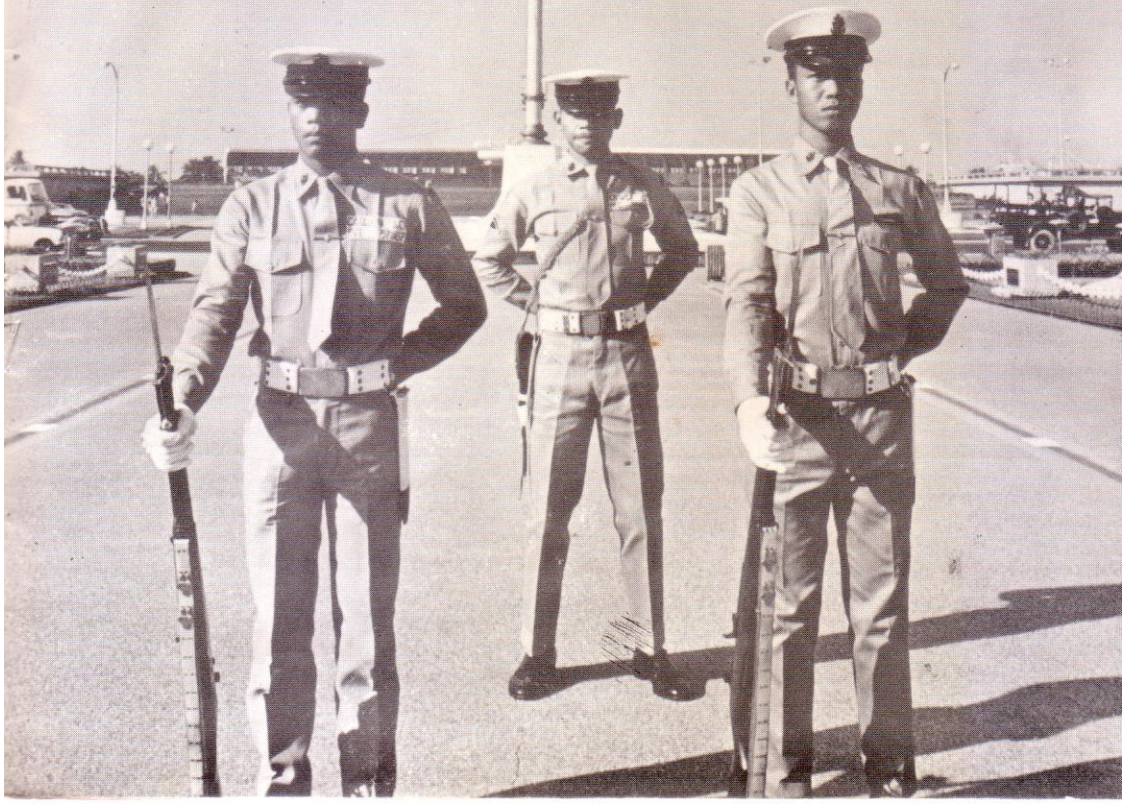
I will always bear true faith and loyalty to my unit and my comrades-in-arms, and will carry myself as a true Marine, representative of the best in soldiery.

I shall strive from this day onward, to improve myself physically, morally and professionally.

I will always follow and execute the orders of my commissioned and non-commissioned officers, in a cheerful and hearty manner.

I will always hold the interest of my unit above my own.

I swear to be always a true Marine, SO HELP ME, GOD.



MISSION

* TO serve with forces afloat for the conduct of such amphibious landing and subsequent operations ashore, as may be essential in the prosecution of naval campaigns.
* TO develop, in coordination with other units of the Philippine Navy, landing force tactics and techniques in amphibious operations.
* TO provide security units for the protection of government property at naval bases and stations and aboard naval vessels.
* TO serve with other AFP units in the conduct of land operations when so directed.

