23rd Anniversary

PHILIPPINE MARINES



November 7, 1973

HISTORY

THE organization of a unit of Marines was originally conceived in early 1950 by the late President Ramon Magsaysay, as then Secretary of National Defense. The Armed Forces of the Philippines during this time was at the height of its campaign against dissidents and outlaws. The "Huks" posed a real threat to Manila and the neighboring provinces, and southern Philippines was plagued by rampant piracy, banditry and smuggling.

Secretary Magsaysay felt the need for the creation of a unit to serve as a ready sea-borne striking force to be employed specifically against dissidents and outlaws entrenched in coastal hideouts. In answer to this need the Philippine Marines was born.

On November 7, 1950, at the Philippine Navy Base in Cavite City, the first Philippine Marine unit was organized and designated "A" Company of a future battalion. Its initial strength of 230 enlisted personnel were composed of sailor volunteers and civilian recruits. Six Navy officers volunteered to join the new outfit. LT MANUEL A GOMEZ PN was designated as the first Commanding Officer.

After having been trained for a few months the company was immediately fielded for operations. It received its baptism of fire in the Anti-dissidence Campaign in Quezon province. From then on the unit joined AFP operations against HMBS in Central Luzon and peace and order operations in Negros Occidental. Thereafter, platoon landing teams were deployed in Southern Philippines as part of PN Task Forces engaged in anti-smuggling and anti-piracy operations.

In 1955, the First Marine Company was expanded into a battalion of two rifle companies and a headquarters and service company. Immediately after activation, the second company was also fielded for operations.

As the years passed, with demands for Marines ever increasing, the outfit continued to expand slowly. In 1961 a third rifle company was organized, and in 1966, a Weapons Company was activated to provide the necessary combat support for the battalion. The early seventies saw the rapid growth of the Marines. In 1970, a fourth company was organized and in 1971 three more companies were activated followed by two more companies in 1972.

On February 21, 1972, the Philippine Marines was authorized as a Brigade, with two infantry battalions, a Headquarters Service Group, and a Combat Support Group. The late COMMODORE RUDIARDO BROWN served as the first Commandant of the Philippine Marine Brigade. The year 1973 saw further expansion with the activation of a third infantry battalion.

Throughout its brief history, Philippine Marines have always been ready to respond to the call of duty, whether in operations against dissidents or outlaws, policing elections, providing security, or performing rescue and relief operations. To attest to these achievements, its colors proudly fly the following streamers: Presidential Unit Citation with 2 Bronze Stars, Anti-Dissidence Campaign, Jolo Campaign, Mindanao and Sulu Campaign, and Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operations. In addition, Marines have individualy earned their share of decorations from the Wounded Personnel Medal to the Distinguished Conduct Star.

PAST MARINE COMMANDING OFFICERS



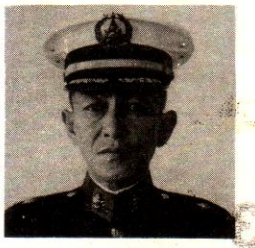
LT MANUEL A GOMEZ
2 Nov 50 — 1 Aug 52



CDR GREGORIO L LIM
1 Aug 52 — 21 Jul 65



LCDR ANTONIO G JAVIER
21 Jul 65 — 28 Apr 66



LCDR RODOLFO M PUNSALANG
28 Apr 66 — 27 May 68



LCDR RAFAEL R REDUBLO
8 Sep 68 — 21 Jul 69



CDR CESAR C BETITA
21 Jul 69 — 31 Jul 70



COMMO RUDIARDO A BROWN
27 May 68 — 8 Sep 68 (Actg)
31 Jul 70 — 30 Jan 73
First Commandant



Tanggapan ng Pangulo ng Pilipinas
(OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES)

Message:

As President of our Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I am proud to extend my greetings and felicitations to the officers and men of the Philippine Marine Brigade on the occasion of their 23rd anniversary observance.

The Philippine Marine Brigade was organized in 1950 as a unit of the Philippine Navy, charged mainly with the task of undertaking amphibious and ground operations. At these tasks, the PMB has more than proven its worth, both as an offensive and defensive unit against dissidents, outlaws, smugglers and pirates. Today, it constitutes the main force of the Sulu Sea Frontier Command which guards the southern ramparts of our Republic.

In addition to purely military operations, the PMB has undertaken numerous rescue and relief operations. The marines have done all these without fanfare. But on this occasion, I consider it fitting and proper to draw the attention of the nation to the deeds of these men who keep long vigils in order that the rest of us can sleep in peace. With great pride I salute the officers and men of the Philippine Marine Brigade.

President of the Philippines

1973



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
(REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
KAGAWARAN NG TANGGULANG BANSA
(DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE)
TANGGAPAN NG KALIHIM
(OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY)
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO
QUEZON CITY

Message

It is with pride and honor that I salute the officers and men of the Philippine Marine Brigade on your 23rd anniversary this year.

Much of the history of the anti-subversion and counterinsurgency campaign of our Armed Forces, particularly in the southern parts of the country, has been written by the daring, courage and sacrifice of the Philippine Marines. At times of challenge and crisis, the marine has always stood at the first battle line, often fighting against overwhelming odds yet often holding out with that sustained endurance of will and spirit that speaks of the true Filipino soldier.

Carry on the marine esprit-de-corps. Along with the other highly-specialized combat units of our Armed Forces, you are our firm guarantee of the peace and freedom of our people in the country side, territorial integrity of our nation and the strength of our Republic.

Congratulations and best wishes to all.

JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Secretary



CHIEF OF STAFF.
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY

Message

I take pleasure in conveying my warmest felicitations to the officers and men of the Philippine Marine Brigade on the occasion of its 23rd Anniversary.

The past year was fraught with violence and lawlessness, particularly in the South, where the Philippine Marine Brigade found itself once more in the forefront of the current anti-subversion/insurgency operations. I take deep pride to note how the Command ably performed its assigned tasks in containing the lawlessness, thereby restoring peace and normalcy in the area. However, it is with a deep feeling of regret and grief to recall that the process has exacted a toll of good men on the Marines, who did not falter to dedicate their lives to the service and country in pursuance of peace and security. Let us who are left behind, therefore, preserve and maintain what they have given their lives for.

As the Philippine Marine Brigade stands on the threshold of another year, I enjoin each officer and enlisted personnel to be vigilant at all times and not be lulled into a false sense of complacency, lest the fruition of our efforts be wasted.

R C ESPINO
General, AFP
Chief of Staff



FLAG OFFICER IN COMMAND
PHILIPPINE NAVY
ROXAS BOULEVARD, MANILA

Message:

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations and warmest greetings to the stout-hearted men of the Philippine Marine Brigade on the occasion of its 23rd Anniversary celebration.

At the forefront in our present pacification campaign in Southern Philippines, the Philippine Marine Brigade is continuously adding luster and more laurels to its already colorful history. Endowed with spartan discipline, superior training and unrelenting determination, the officers and men of the Philippine Marine Brigade have indeed upheld their reputation as the "crisis-managers" of our military establishment.

As I salute all of you for many jobs well done, allow me to resound the call for more lasting courage, vigilance and gallantry among the Marines for the whole nation looks upon you with high hopes and aspirations.

Hilario M Ruiz

HILARIO M RUIZ
Commodore AFP



PHILIPPINE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE MARINE BRIGADE
Fort Bonifacio, Rizal

Message:

Our 23rd Anniversary this year takes on double significance. It marks our first year of service in a new and better society and of course, it commemorates the birth of a company of Marines 23 years ago.

Under the newly established order our participation has indeed been most memorable and relevant. On the eve of Presidential Proclamation 1081 we drew first blood while effecting the closure of a radio station. From thence, units of the Brigade participated in pacification campaigns to restore and maintain peace and tranquility in certain troubled areas of the country. All these we carried out with a firm resolve and a solemn pledge to make the supreme sacrifice, if need be, in order to contribute in our own little way to the noble objectives of the national effort.

This year, we are close to a full brigade of Marines. The steady growth of this organization through the years has not come overnight on a silver platter. It is the result of many years of service dedicated to our ideals of KARANGALAN, KATUNGKULAN and KABAYANIHAN which we must continue to pursue, if only to perpetuate our name.

On this our 23rd Anniversary therefore, let us once more rededicate ourselves to service with a strong determination to move forward and not backward so that we may fulfill our obligation to the people and to the nation.

RODOLFO M. PUNSALANG
Captain, PN(GSC)
Commandant

COMMANDANT AND STAFF

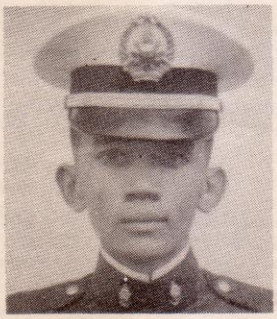


CAPT RODOLFO M PUNSALANG
Commandant



CDR RODOLFO G BIAZON
Actg Chief of Staff

PERSONAL STAFF

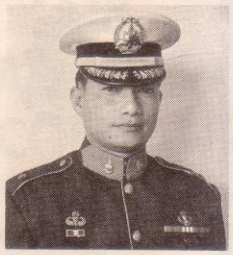


ENS BENJAMIN B PADRE
Actg Sec General Staff



MSGT PACIFICO Y SALANDANAN
Brigade Sergeant Major

GENERAL AND SPECIAL STAFF



LCDR GUILLERMO R RUIZ
AC of S, G-1



CDR RODOLFO G BIAZON
AC of S, G-2/3



LCDR CESAR C ABELLA
AC of S, G-4



LCDR ADOLFO M MONTESA
Disbursing Officer/Comptroller



LT RITO E ILAO
Provost Marshal



LT MANSUETO T CALASARA
Brigade Chaplain



LTJG VICENTE B BAQUIAL
Adjutant General



LTJG WILSON S AGBAYANI
Legal Officer



LT CONRADO A BRUCE
Asst G-3/Communications Officer



LCDR ELIAS BALITAAN
Brigade Dental Surgeon



LTJG PABLO T VIRAY
Brigade Surgeon



LTJG AUGUSTO A SERA JOSE
Procurement Officer



ENS ARMENIO N CRISTAL
Supply Accountable Officer



The Honor Escort Company during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rizal monument in Luneta Park.



LT RITO E ILAO
Commanding Officer

Mission:

1. To exercise command and control, administration, direction and supervision for the Brigade;
2. To provide the administrative services and communications and military police support to the units.

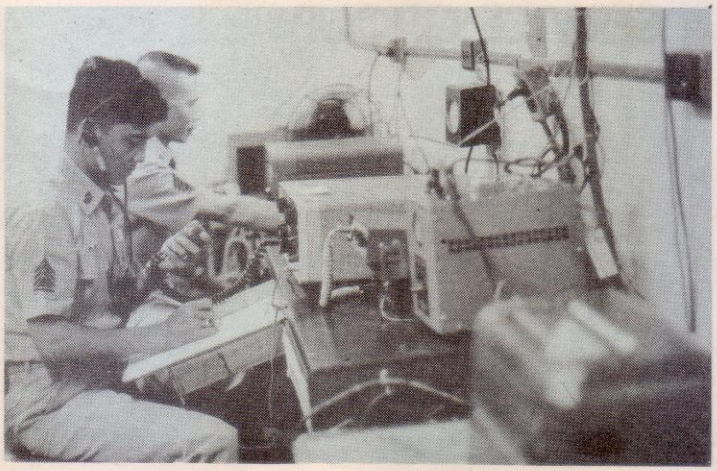


Eager faces at the pay line.

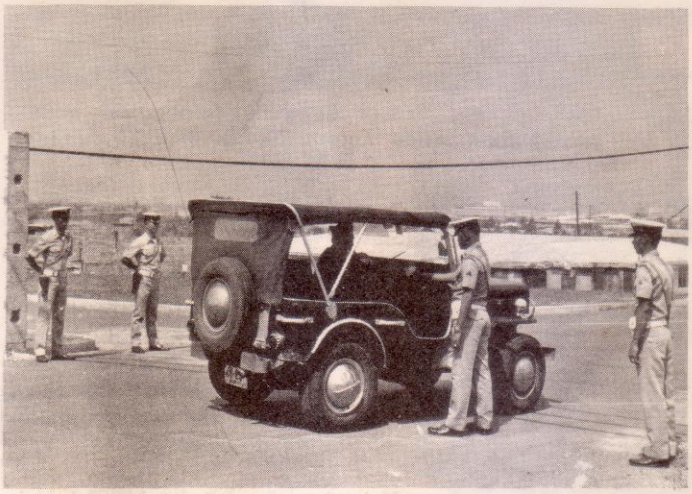


The colorful Drum and Bugle Team, pride of the Marines.

HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY



Communications – no war is won without them.



Smart and alert, these MP's provide station security.

Clerks and typists — the backbone of the Headquarters.



Organic Units are: Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Unit Awards: RP Presidential Unit Citation with 2 Bronze Stars, Anti-Dissidence Campaign, Jolo Campaign, Mindanao-Sulu Campaign, and Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operations.

SERVICE GROUP



LCDR CESAR C ABELLA
Commander, Service Group

Mission: To provide combat service support to units of the Brigade.



CO, Hqs and Service Company receives the unit guidon from BGen Fabian C Ver of PSC during activation rites.

Organic Units: Headquarters Detachment, Service Company, Motor Transport Company, Medical Company, and the Dental Detachment.

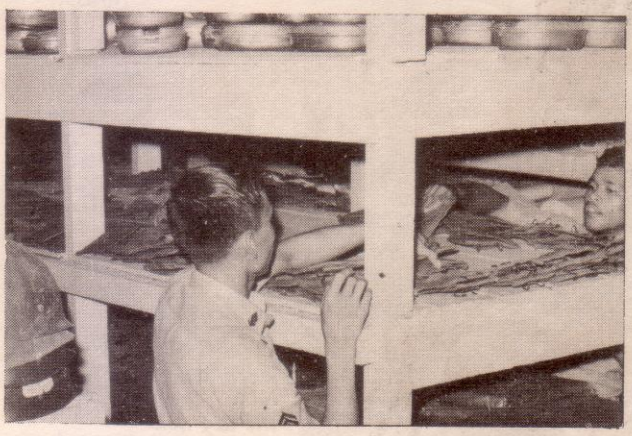
Unit Awards: RP Presidential Unit Citation, Anti-Dissidence Campaign, and Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operations.



A daily scene at the maintenance shop — to keep 'em fit and running.



The Marine Medical Team in action during last year's flood in Central Luzon.



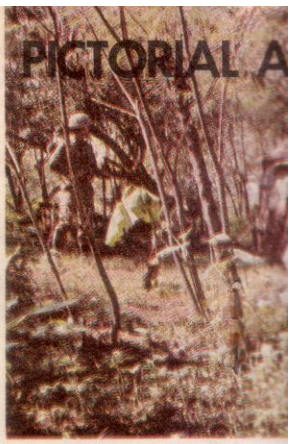
Keeping the proper inventory level is the task of the Supply Platoon . . .



. . . . . and m o v i n g them up to where they are needed most.



Marines hitting the beach during an amphibious exercise.



To catch their quarry, th a cat and the alertness of

Honor, Duty, Patriotism.

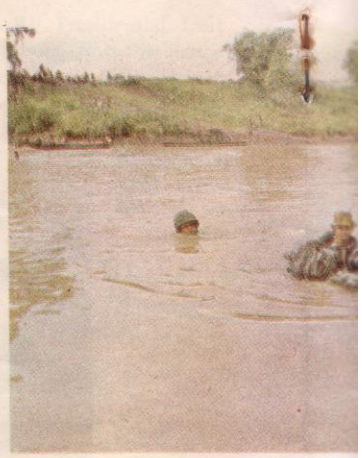




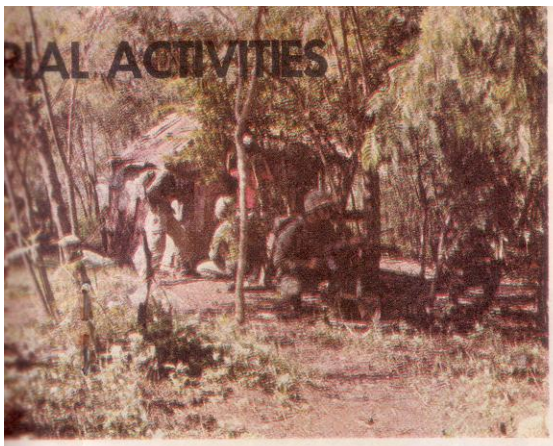
But before the actual thing, innumerable rehearsals on the dry net.

In times of calamities, a ready helping hand for the victims.

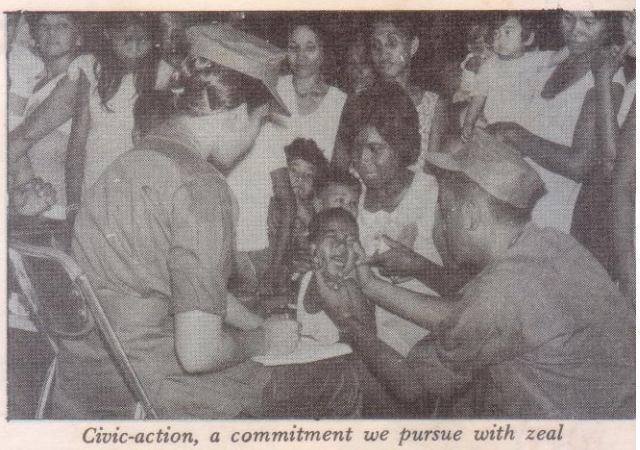




Ingenuity and stamina, a



eir quarry, they must move with the stealthiness of e alertness of a tiger.



Civic-action, a commitment we pursue with zeal and dedication.





Members of a Marine company take time out to relax in between training activities.



nd stamina, a must for all Marines.



The artillery boys – they call themselves "the deciding factor in battle."

SUPPORT GROUP



CDR BRAULIO B BALBAS JR
Commander, Support Group



Members of the 105-MM Howitzer Battery on training.

Mission: To provide combat support to units of the Brigade.



The Recon Company – they can infiltrate by land, by water, or by air.



Pull her down, man, before she brings you up again! ! !



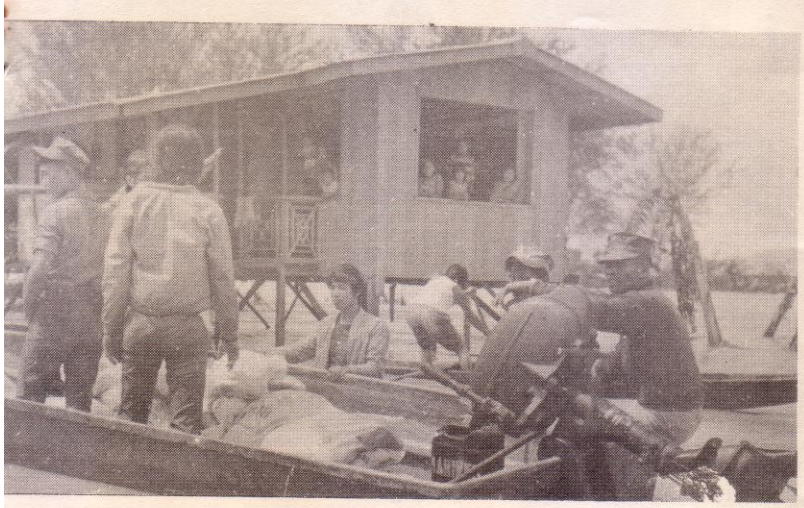
Crew of the 106 MM recoiless rifle learning the intricacies of their hardware.

Organic Units are: Headquarters and Service Company, Reconnaissance Company, 105-MM Howitzer Battery, 107-MM Mortar Battery and Assault Weapons Company.

Unit Awards: RP Presidential Unit Citation, Anti-Dissidence Campaign and Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Operations.



"One round on the wa-a-a-a-a-a-a -a-y."



Elements of the Marine Amphibious Rescue Unit (MARU) bring much needed goods to flood stricken area.



Marine recruits toughening up via the obstacle course.



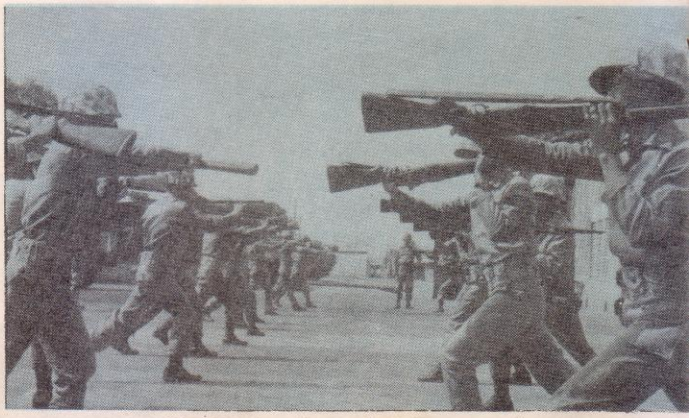
LCDR ANTONIO N VILLAMOR
Commander Marine Training Group



Every bullet counts for the Marine sniper.

It's called "rapelling," but I'd rather use the ladders if not for the presence of those menacing DI's up there.





Hand-to-hand combat is part of basic training.

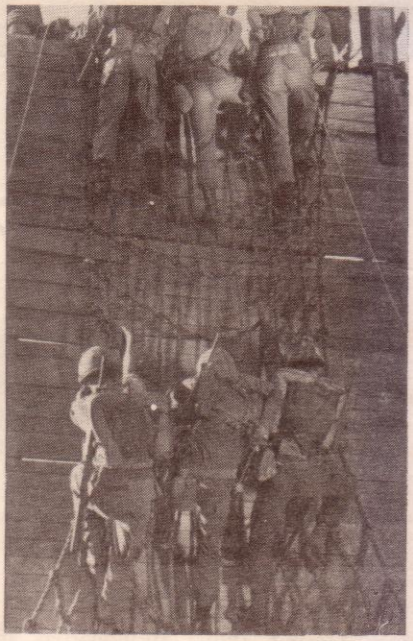
MARINE TRAINING GROUP

Mission:
1. To plan, conduct, and supervise basic and specialized training of the individual Marine.
2. To plan, conduct and supervise unit training of Marine units.

Organic Units are: Headquarters and Service Detachment, Marksmanship and Sniper Detachment, Recruit Training Unit and Amphibious Troop Training Unit.



A Marine's view of the beaches just before landing during amphibious operations.



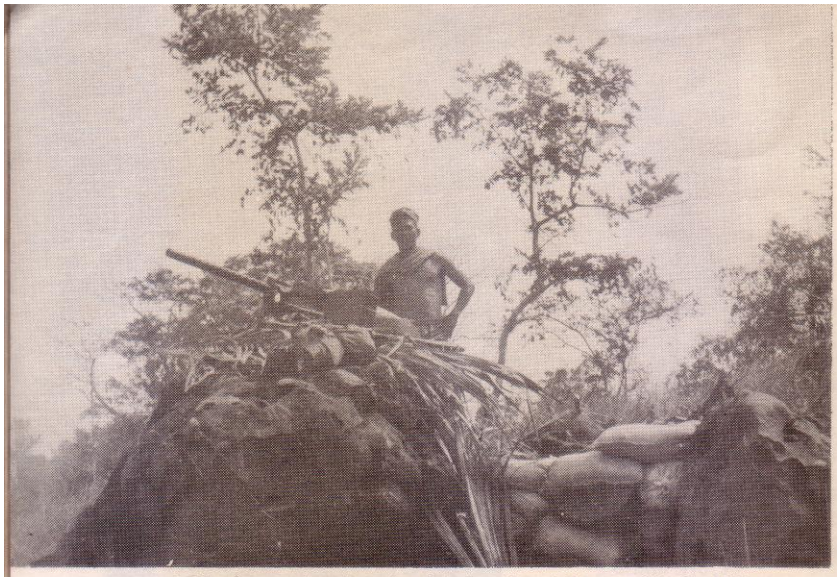
Practicing ship debarkation by the use of the dry net.



Would-be paratroopers practicing the different PLF's (parachute landing falls) under the watchful eyes of the AI's (airborne instructors).



Conduct of heli-borne operations is one capability of the versatile Marines.



A Marine sentry keeping his lonely vigil atop Sibalo Hill.



LCDR EUGENIO REYES
Commanding Officer, 1st Bn

1st BATTALION

Mission: To close with the enemy and destroy him by fire and maneuver, and to repel his attack by close combat.

Organic Units: Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Company, 5th Marine Company, 6th Marine Company and 9th Marine Company.

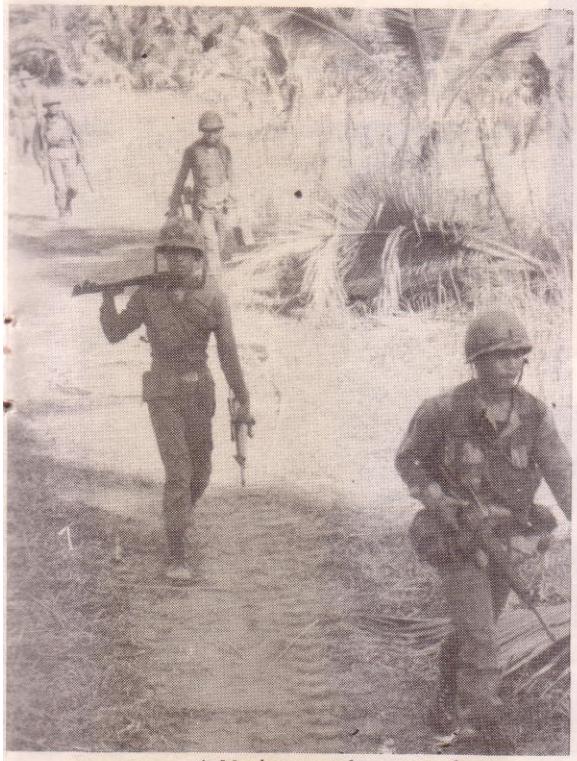
Unit Awards: RP Presidential Unit Citation, Anti-Dissidence Campaign, Mindanao-Sulu Campaign.

The Commandant pinning medals to the young heroes during one of his field visits.





Maintaining a check-point at Siet-Panamao, Jolo.



A Marine squad on patrol.



The late Commodore Brown, former Commandant, confering with local Jolo leaders to bring peace and understanding in the troubled area.

Elements of the 1st Bn were airlifted to trouble spots, courtesy of the PAF.



2nd BATTALION



The Commandant viewing abandoned weapons and ammunition after the 2nd Bn successfully captured Tuburan, Basilan from rebel hands.

Mission: To close with the enemy and destroy him by fire and maneuver, and to repel his attack by close combat.



CO, 2nd Bn rendering a salute to General Espino, AFP Chief, during the latter's visit to the area of operations.

FDC personnel carefully plot out target areas for the supporting fires.



Elements of 2nd Bn hit the beaches of Tuburan.

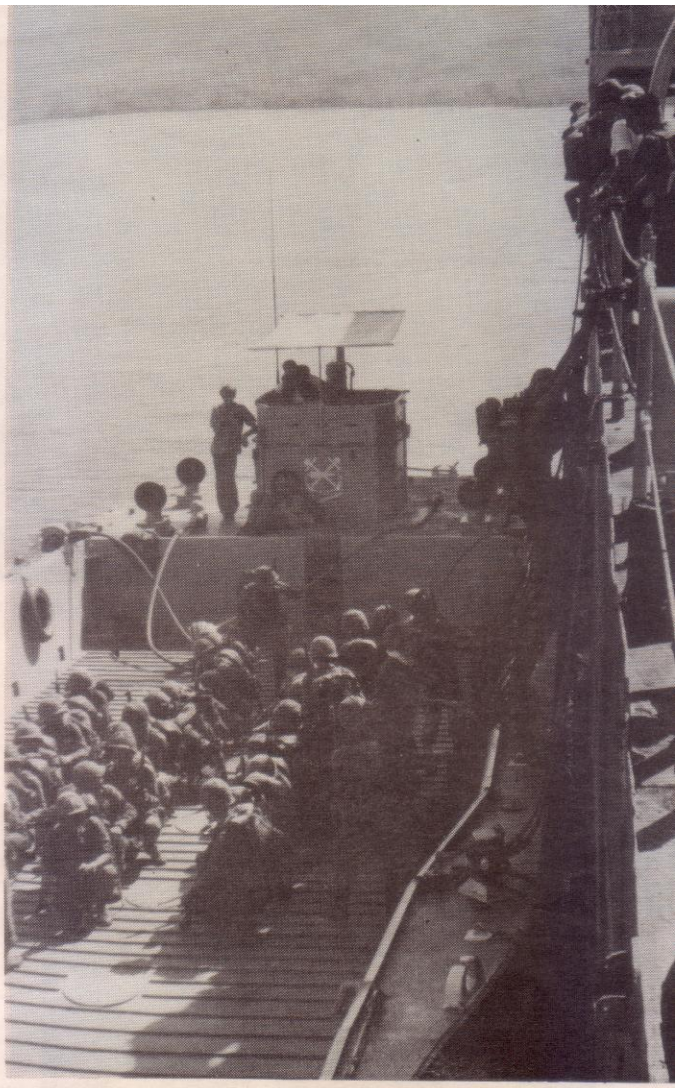




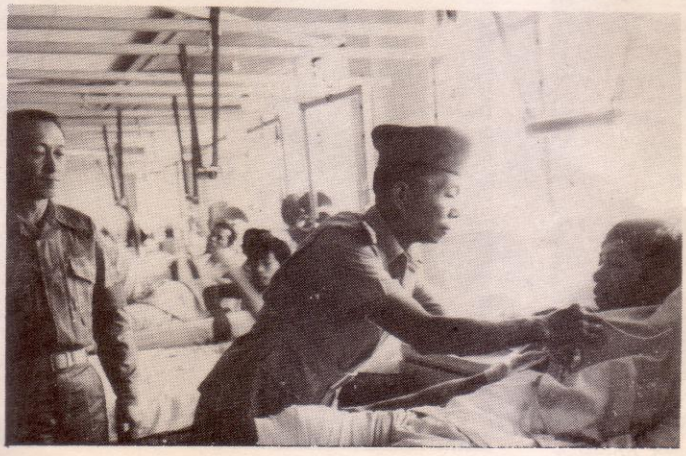
LCDR ARTURO T ASUNCION
Commanding Officer, 2nd BN

Organic Units: Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Marine Company, 4th Marine Company, 7th Marine Company, 8th Marine Company.

Unit Awards: RP Presidential Unit Citation, Anti-Dissidence Campaign, and Mindanao-Sulu Campaign.



Prior to the actual landing, rehearsals were held to develop teamwork and efficiency.



The FOIC took time out from his tight schedule to visit the wounded at the hospital.



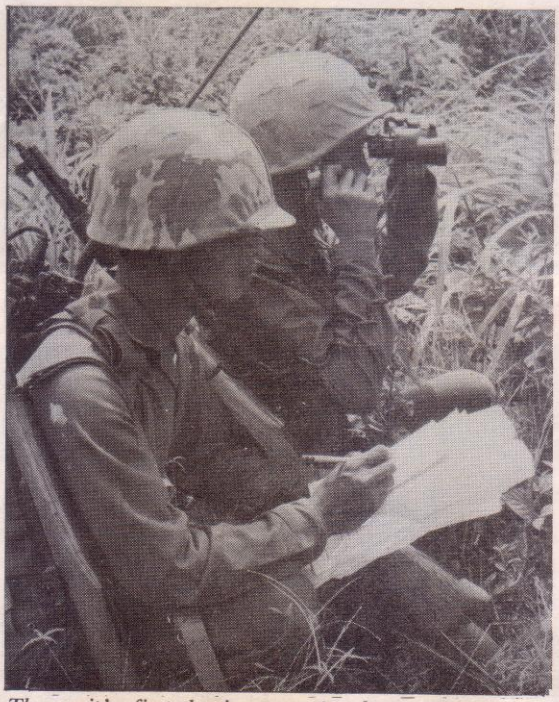
CO, 3rd Bn receives unit standard from the FOIC during activation ceremony.



CDR BRIGIDO T PAREDES
Commanding Officer, 3rd Bn



In Ternate, Cavite, the Bn went on jungle base training. Different ways of crossing a river were taught the men.



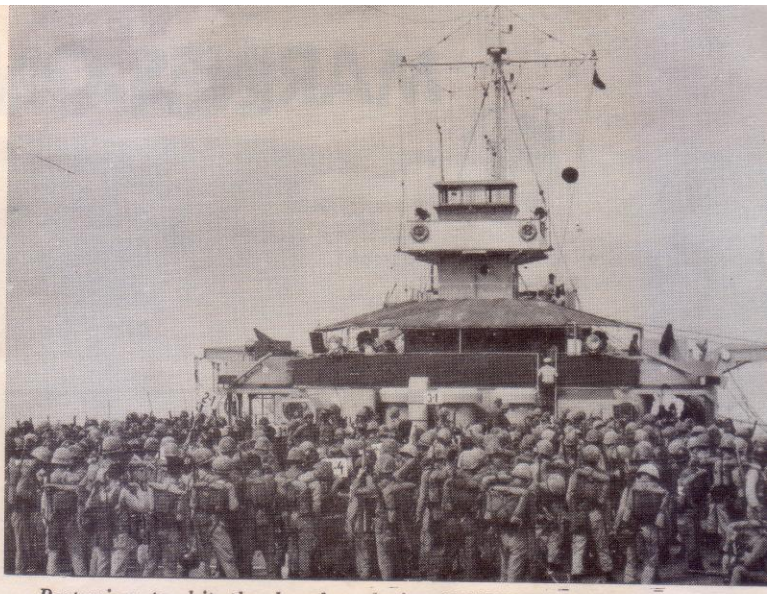
The unit's first business at hand was to conduct individual advanced training for its officers and NCO's. Shown here is a mortar forward observer learning the intricacies of his job.



3rd BATTALION

Mission: To close with the enemy and destroy him by fire and maneuver, and to repel his attack by close combat.

Organic Units: Headquarters and Service Company, 10th Marine Company, 11th Marine Company, 14th Marine Company, 15th Marine Company.

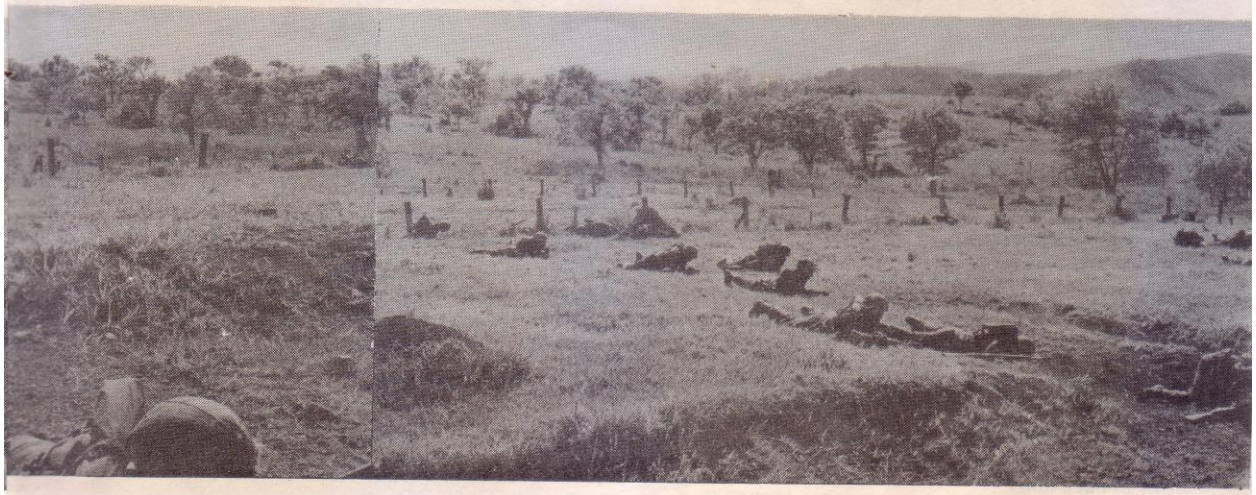


Preparing to hit the beaches during PHIBEX PAG–ASA ...



... and then back loading for home after a successful exercise.

Elements of the battalion moving thru the infiltration course during its unit training.



MARINES ON DUTY WITH

Presidential Security Command
Malacañang, Manila



BGEN FABIAN C VER
Commanding General



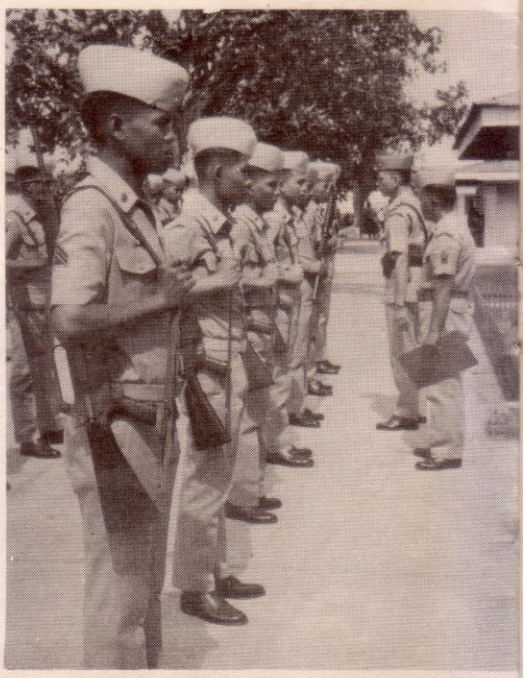
2nd Marine Company won the "Best Marching Unit" streamer from among other AFP units assigned PSC.

PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY COMMAND

The 2nd and 12th Marine Companies are attached to the Presidential Security Command. They are tasked to provide security for the President of the Republic, and immediate members of his family; and to provide ceremonial escorts for visiting dignitaries.



Almost unbelievable, but they got the first prize in the First Lady's "Green Revolution" contest in Malacañang.



Constant inspection, a must for the delicate task of providing Presidential security.

OTHER COMMANDS



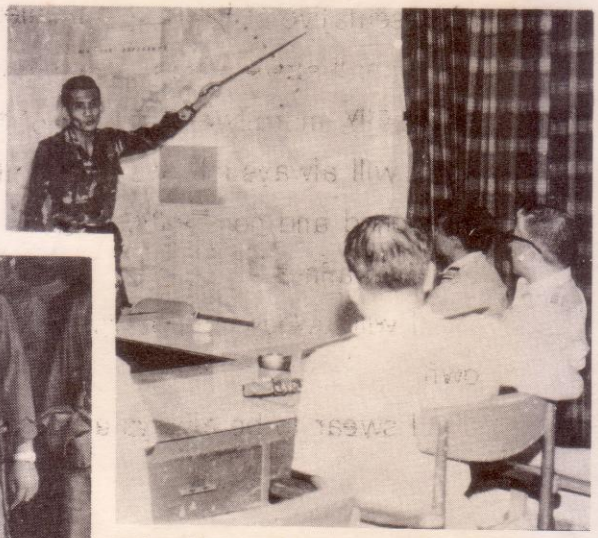
COMMODORE ROMULO M ESPALDON
Commander, Southwest Command



The SOWESCOM battalion passing-in-review before the President during the testimonial parade in his honor.

SOUTHWEST COMMAND

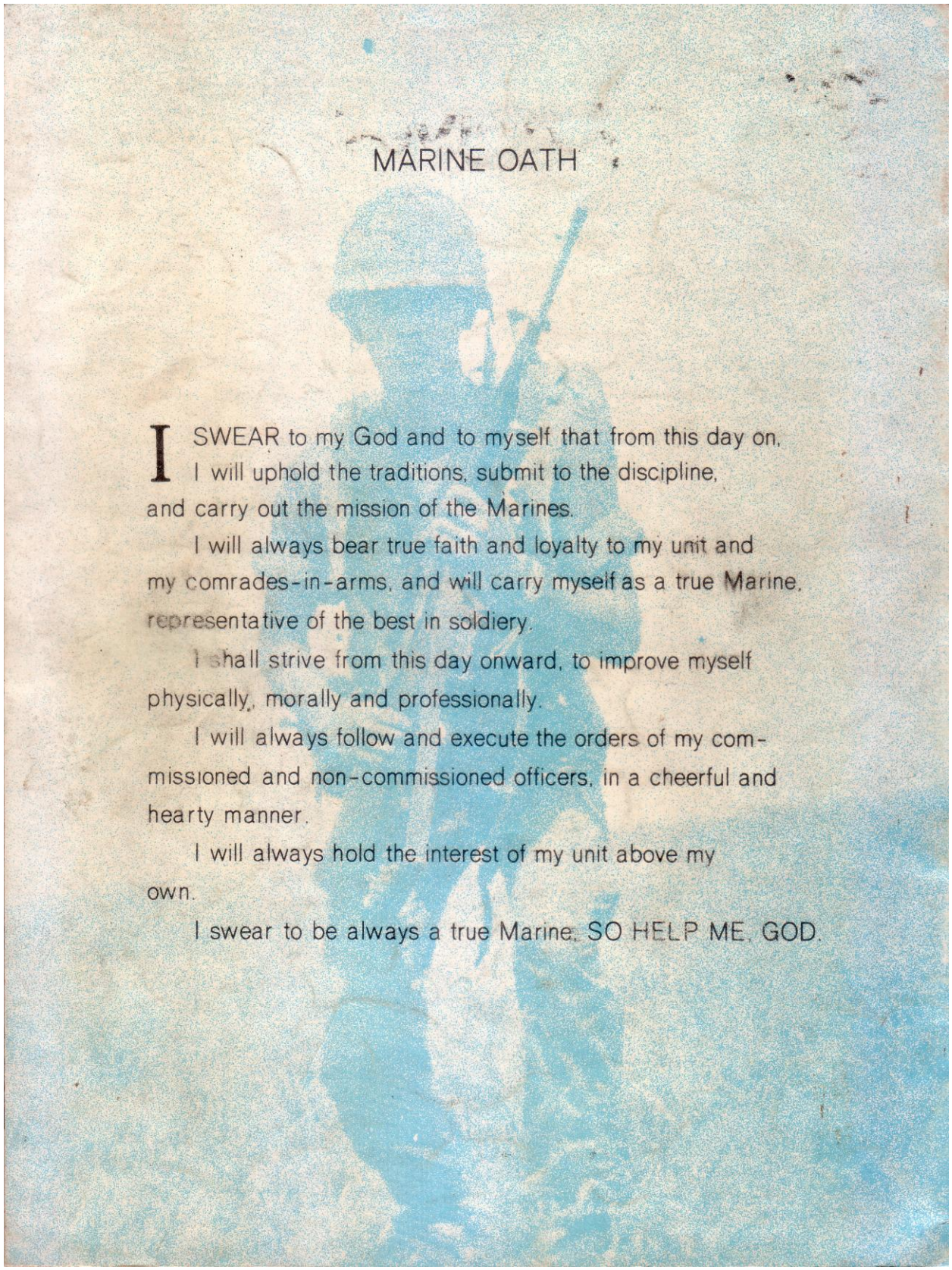
The 1st and 3rd Battalions are attached for operations with SOUTHWEST COMMAND.



Col Alfonso Alcoseba, 4th Division Commander, in-charge of ground operations in SWC, briefing the commandant and PN Vice Commander.



Firearms captured by Marines attached SOWESCOM are given the once-over by the Commandant.



MARINE OATH

I SWEAR to my God and to myself 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.