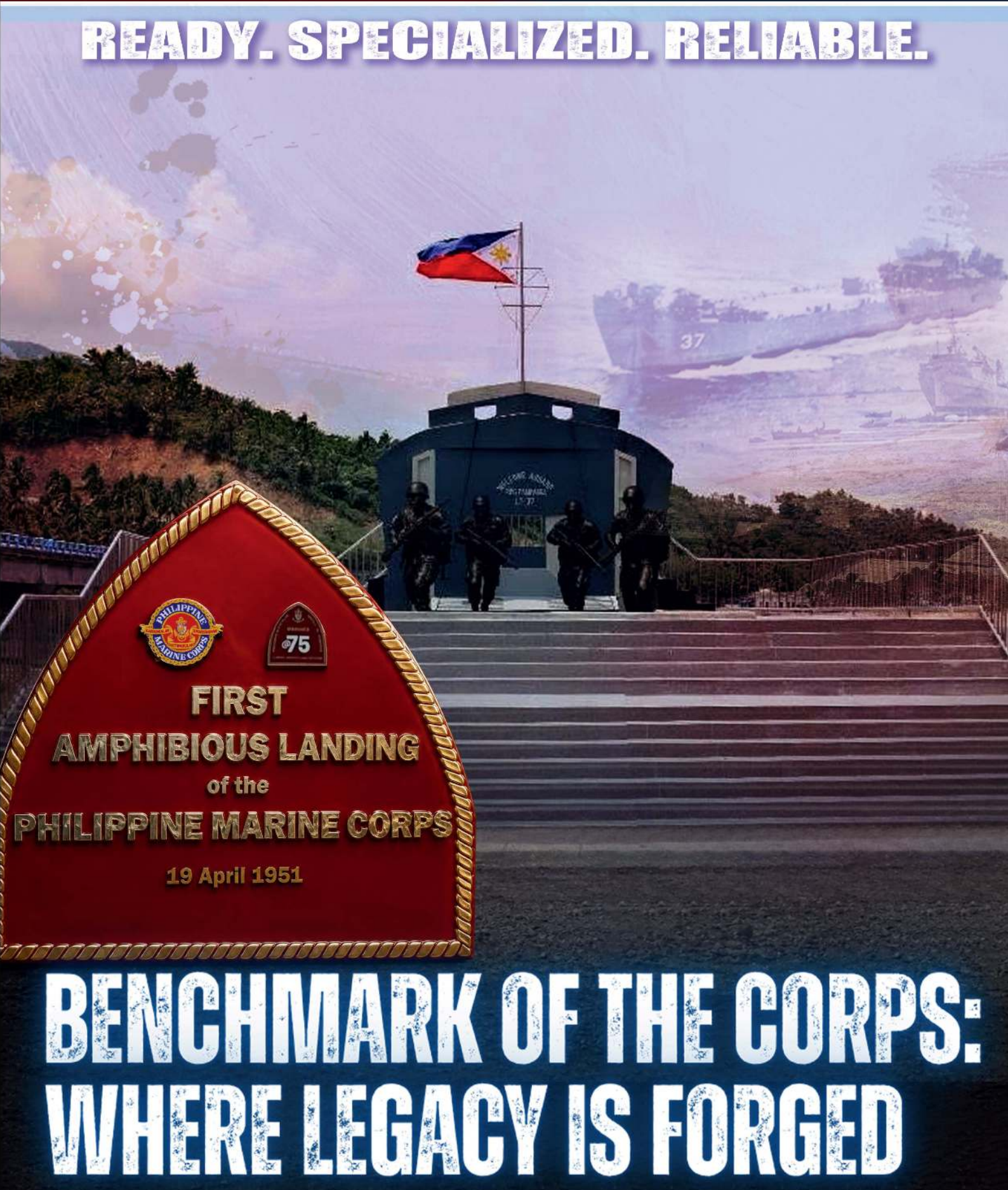
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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

Summer Edition 2026

READY. SPECIALIZED. RELIABLE.



BENCHMARK OF THE CORPS: WHERE LEGACY IS FORGED



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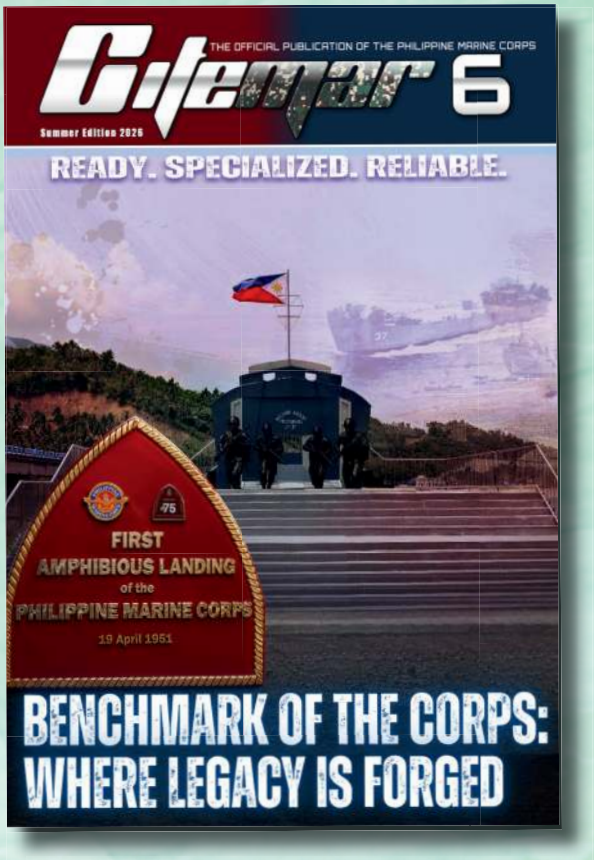
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ABOUT THE COVER

The Philippine Marine Corps proudly traces its roots to Umiray, Quezon - the historic birthplace of its First Amphibious Landing on April 19, 1951. This sacred ground symbolizes the origin of the Corps' enduring legacy of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering service to the nation. From the shores of Umiray began a tradition of honor and excellence that continues to define every Marine today.

Depicted on the cover is the Inauguration of the Military Park Umiray and the Unveiling of the Commemorative Marker of the First Amphibious Landing of the Philippine Marine Corps. This marker stands as a benchmark of the Corps' historic landing in Umiray Quezon, as a rapid deployment force and serves as a lasting tribute to the heroism of the Marines and traces the Corps' remarkable evolution.The image represents strength, resilience, and the unbreakable bond between the Philippine Marines and the homeland they are sworn to protect. It reflects the Corps' enduring mission of coastal defense, amphibious warfare, and the safeguarding of the nation's archipelagic domain.

As a vital component of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Marine Corps remains ready, specialized, and reliable in defending the country's maritime frontiers. Through continuous modernization, rigorous training, and the development of highly capable combined-arms units, the Corps sustains its operational excellence in complex and dynamic environments.

From Umiray to every shoreline of the Philippines, their commitment remains steadfast in serving and upholding the legacy forged from the very place where it all began.

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Message

of the

COMMANDANT
Philippine Marine Corps

The Second Quarter of this year marks another meaningful chapter in the continuing transformation of the Philippine Marine Corps as a READY, SPECIALIZED, and RELIABLE force committed to defending our nation and serving the Filipino people with honor, courage, and excellence.

This period was highlighted by significant accomplishments and meaningful milestones that further strengthened our operational readiness, institutional capabilities, and proud Marine heritage. Foremost among these was the commemoration of the 75th Marine Birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps, a historic milestone that celebrates seven and a half decades of valor, sacrifice, and unwavering service to the nation. Through various activities initiated by the Philippine Marine Corps, we honored the legacy of generations of Marines whose dedication and heroism established the strong foundation upon which our Corps stands today.

Central to this commemoration is the Inauguration and Unveiling of the Commemorative Marker of the First Amphibious Landing in Umiray, Quezon, and an event that marked the birth of the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC). On April 19, 1951, the pioneering Marines of “A” Company executed this historic operation, laying the foundation of amphibious warfare in the country and establishing a legacy defined by courage, discipline, and operational excellence. This historic milestone serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and heroism of our forefathers whose steadfast commitment shaped the identity and fighting spirit of the Corps.

Guided by our thrust of becoming a more capable and responsive force, the Philippine Marine Corps achieved another milestone through the activation of the 273rd Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion (SBASMBn), further enhancing our defense capabilities and operational effectiveness. Likewise, the activation of the Air Auxiliary Ready Reserve Unit under the 4th Marine Brigade strengthens our reserve force structure and expands our capacity for rapid deployment and mission support.

The successful conduct of Archipelagic Ready Marine Allied Sovereign "ARMAS PATROL" 2025 and Archipelagic Preparedness Exercise APEX “ACERO” 05-2026, likewise underscored the growing capability and professionalism of the Philippine Marine Corps. As homegrown exercise activities conceptualized and developed by the PMC, these exercises demonstrate our initiative in crafting realistic and mission-oriented training programs tailored to our operational environment and national security requirements. More importantly, these exercises serve as vital platforms for strengthening interoperability and fostering cooperation with allied and like-minded nations, enabling our forces to enhance collective readiness and improve coordination in addressing emerging maritime and security challenges.

Parallel to these operational gains is our continuing infrastructure development program, which reflects our commitment to improving facilities, operational efficiency, and the welfare of our personnel. These developments are essential in sustaining a modern, resilient, and future-ready Marine Corps capable of meeting the demands of the times.

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we also recognize that the strength of the Philippine Marine Corps lies in its people. To every Marine, reservist, civilian human resource, and partner stakeholder, your professionalism, dedication, and sacrifices continue to inspire excellence throughout our ranks and remain vital to the success of our mission.

As we move forward, let us continue to uphold the proud traditions and core values of the Philippine Marine Corps. United in purpose and steadfast in duty, we shall remain a force that is always READY, always SPECIALIZED, and always RELIABLE in safeguarding our nation and serving the Filipino people.

Mabuhay ang Philippine Marine Corps.

VICENTE MAP BLANCO III
Major General PN(M)



Message

of the

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Philippine Marine Corps

Our strength and identity are deeply rooted in our proud history and beginnings. This heritage was recently honored through the Inauguration of our Military Park and the Unveiling of a marker commemorating our first amphibious landing in General Nakar, Quezon. This milestone powerfully reminds us that everything we are today is built upon the sacrifices and courage of those who served before us. As Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), we are the true vanguards and keepers of our culture, values, and traditions. It is our responsibility to support all personnel, especially new entrants, and guide them to understand and embrace the unique heritage and ways of our Corps.

However, we must always earn the right to carry this immense responsibility. We can only be effective guardians of our legacy and leaders of our troops if we ourselves are consistently capable and competent. This principle necessitates our resolute commitment to continuous learning and a relentless pursuit of excellence in everything we do. We must be driven by a hunger for knowledge, always striving to master every aspect relevant to our roles. Remember that in our profession, respect and trust are earned, not merely given. When we perform our duties with dedication and excellence, and by conducting ourselves properly while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism at all times, we naturally gain the high regard, admiration, and full confidence of our leaders and peers.

As we participate in various activities and exercises across the Indo Pacific region, let us seize every opportunity to learn new skills, gain new knowledge, and improve our capabilities. Every experience we gain makes us stronger and more dependable, enabling us to truly embody our identity as "The Always Ready, Specialized, and Reliable Force, Defender of the Philippine Archipelago." This collective effort ensures that our organization remains capable and prepared to meet any challenge, now and in the future.

As your Command Sergeant Major, I charge each and every one of you, especially the enlisted corps: never forget our roots or take our legacy for granted. The Corps we serve today was forged through the hard work and sacrifices of every Marine who came before us. Remember that you are the vital bridge in our chain of command, translating the vision of our senior leaders into concrete action and tangible results. Your competence and dedication are paramount, directly influencing troop morale, discipline, and operational effectiveness. I, therefore call upon you to always uphold the leadership philosophy of our commanders, ensuring seamless synchronization for the continued success and advancement of the Philippine Marine Corps. As we serve and improve each day, always ask yourselves: Do I embody the Marine Corps' values and contribute to its unfaltering success? Let us continue to serve with firm pride and purpose, ever true to our magnificent calling.

Rommel V Carbon
Chief Master Sergeant PN(M)

Training For Decision Dominance:

Why Staff Ride Matters

By: COL JOHN PAUL S JACLA PN(M)(GSC)



For the past two years, the Marine Corps Force Development Center (MCFDC) has institutionalized the military staff rides as a core component of officer development. Most recently, the Center conducted a decision-game-driven staff rides across key battle sites of the Bataan Peninsula and on Corregidor Island, terrain central to the 1941–1942 defense of the Philippines. This effort reflects a deliberate shift from history as narrative toward history as a decision laboratory for future battalion commanders and operations officers.

Modern conflict continues to compress time and increase uncertainty. At the battalion level, commanders and operations officers must integrate fires, maneuver, sustainment, and information while making decisions faster than an adaptive enemy. These demands cannot be met through theory alone. They require repeated exposure to realistic decision environments that develop judgment and confidence. This article examines how the staff ride, as implemented by MCFDC, contributes to the development of future battalion commanders and operations officers. It first discusses the role of staff rides in cultivating command judgment through terrain-based decision making. It then explores how decision games promote creativity and learning without distorting hindsight. Finally, it addresses the challenge of preserving historically significant battle sites and proposes a way ahead to expand and safeguard staff rides as a critical component of Marine Officer development.

Staff Rides and the Development of Command Judgment

The military staff ride emerged in the late nineteenth century as a response to the limitations of classroom instruction in preparing officers for command. Developed within the Prussian and German General Staff system, it was designed to move officers from abstract study to terrain-based problem solving, where uncertainty, friction, and incomplete information could not be ignored. Rather than treating history as narrative, early staff rides framed campaigns as sequences of command decisions shaped by terrain, time, logistics, and enemy action. This approach reflected a growing recognition that professional judgment, rather than rote knowledge - was the decisive attribute of effective commanders (Clausewitz, 1984).

The method was later adopted and institutionalized by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps as a leader development tool that provides vicarious combat experience through disciplined, decision-focused study on historical ground. Modern staff ride doctrine emphasizes active participation, critical discussion, and decision-making without the benefit of hindsight, ensuring relevance across eras and technologies (Robertson, 2014). When properly designed, staff rides do not teach officers what past commanders did, but compel them to think as commanders themselves. It is within this tradition that the Marine Corps Force Development Center has institutionalized the staff ride, not as a historical exercise, but as a means of developing judgment and decision dominance in future battalion commanders and operations officers (Wineman et al., 2018).

As practiced by MCFDC, the staff ride is neither a battlefield tour nor an academic history seminar. It is a leader development method designed to immerse officers in complex operational problems and compel them to decide. Its value lies in placing officers in situations where outcomes are uncertain and resources are constrained. These conditions closely mirror battalion command in war.

One enduring insight from staff ride literature is that military history, when tied to terrain, provides a vicarious combat experience that theory cannot replicate (Robertson, 2014). Walking the ground forces officers to reconcile intent with physical reality. Distance, dead space, observation, and movement impose friction that no map exercise can fully capture.

At Bataan sites such as Layac Junction, the Abucay - Mauban Line, Longoskawayan Point, and the Battle of the Pockets, officers confronted problems of delay, defense in depth, counter-infiltration, and force preservation. These were not treated as historical curiosities. They are recurring battalion-level problems. Participants were not asked what commanders had historically done, but what they would do, given the same constraints and uncertainty.

Corregidor: Decision Making Under Compression

In contrast, the Corregidor Island staff ride presented a compressed and increasingly unforgiving decision environment. Where Bataan emphasized depth, delay, and maneuver across extended terrain, Corregidor forced decision-making within a confined, joint, and progressively isolated battlespace. Officers confronted problems of coastal defense, air and maritime denial, sustainment under siege, and command continuity under persistent fires. The island's fixed geography, tunnel systems, and limited maneuver space removed notional options and imposed hard constraints.

Decision games conducted on Corregidor highlighted dilemmas faced by commanders operating with diminishing resources and eroding freedom of action. Participants examined how commanders balanced the defense of critical infrastructure against the need to preserve combat power, how fires were prioritized under ammunition scarcity, and how command and control adapted as communications degraded. The setting reinforced a central lesson for future battalion commanders and operations officers: operational art does not disappear under siege, but it becomes narrower, more unforgiving, and more dependent on disciplined judgment.

Decision Games, Creativity, and Learning Without Hindsight

MCFDC deliberately employed decision-game-driven staff rides rather than narrative-heavy approaches. Decision games require officers to commit to a course of action, articulate intent, and accept critique. There is no preferred solution. This absence of a "correct answer" is central to the method's value.

Wineman, Stowe, and Gelpi (2018) argue that staff rides are most effective when they force students to wrestle with ambiguity and consequences, rather than extract simplified lessons. This aligns with the reality of battalion



command, where decisions are rarely clean and almost never reversible.

For battalion commanders, this develops judgment and moral courage. For operations officers, it sharpens problem framing, synchronization, and anticipation of second- and third-order effects. Creativity emerges not as improvisation for its own sake, but as disciplined adaptation grounded in mission, terrain, and available means.

Why Bataan Matters, and Why It Is Not Enough

The Bataan campaign remains a powerful teaching vehicle. It exposes officers to conditions of exhaustion, constrained logistics, and persistent enemy pressure, forcing difficult trade-offs between mission accomplishment and force preservation. These dilemmas remain relevant to future commanders, regardless of technological change.

At the same time, staff ride literature cautions against overreliance on a single campaign. Leaders benefit most when exposed to varied operational problems across different terrains and contexts (Wineman et al., 2018). Bataan should therefore serve as a foundation, not a capstone.

If staff rides are to prepare officers for future conflict, they must expand to include urban operations, littoral maneuver, expeditionary sustainment, and coalition warfare. Philippine and regional history provide ample opportunities to do so. We need not look far. Our archipelago is filled with historical and more recent battles to study.

A Challenge Ahead: Preserving the Ground of Decision

There is a growing challenge that threatens the effectiveness of staff rides in the Philippines. Several key battle sites associated with the Battle of the Pockets and the Battle of the Points, particularly in Quinawan and Longoskawayan, are now located on privately owned land. Access is increasingly restricted. Critical terrain features are obscured or altered. Historical markers are inaccurately placed, according to a local Bataan tour guide. These conditions disconnect interpretation from actual decision points, risking distorting historical understanding.

As the course directors surveyed the ground, visible indicators of neglect were evident. Limited interpretive aids and poor maintenance undermine the ability to orient students and



conduct meaningful terrain analysis. One core insight from staff ride methodology is that terrain integrity matters. As historical settings degrade, learning becomes more difficult and less precise (Robertson, 2014).

If these sites continue to deteriorate, future leaders risk losing access to an essential professional learning resource. Filipinos, both military and civilian, will be deprived of opportunities to study the past accurately. Leaders who cannot study war on its actual ground are forced to move forward with an incomplete understanding.

Way Ahead

Two efforts are required. First, MCFDC should deliberately expand its staff ride portfolio by selecting campaigns that highlight different command problems relevant to battalion commanders and operations officers. Variety builds adaptability.

Second, there must be advocacy for the preservation and accurate interpretation of key battle sites. This does not require ownership, but it does require coordination with local governments, historical agencies, and landowners to ensure access, accuracy, and basic site integrity.

Staff rides are not about nostalgia. They are about preparing leaders to decide under pressure.

Conclusion

The MCFDC staff ride demonstrates how historical ground, paired with disciplined study and decision-focused execution, develops the judgment, creativity, and adaptability required of battalion commanders and operations officers. Technology will change. The burden of command will not. As long as Marines are expected to make consequential decisions under uncertainty, the staff ride remains a relevant and necessary tool for achieving decision dominance.

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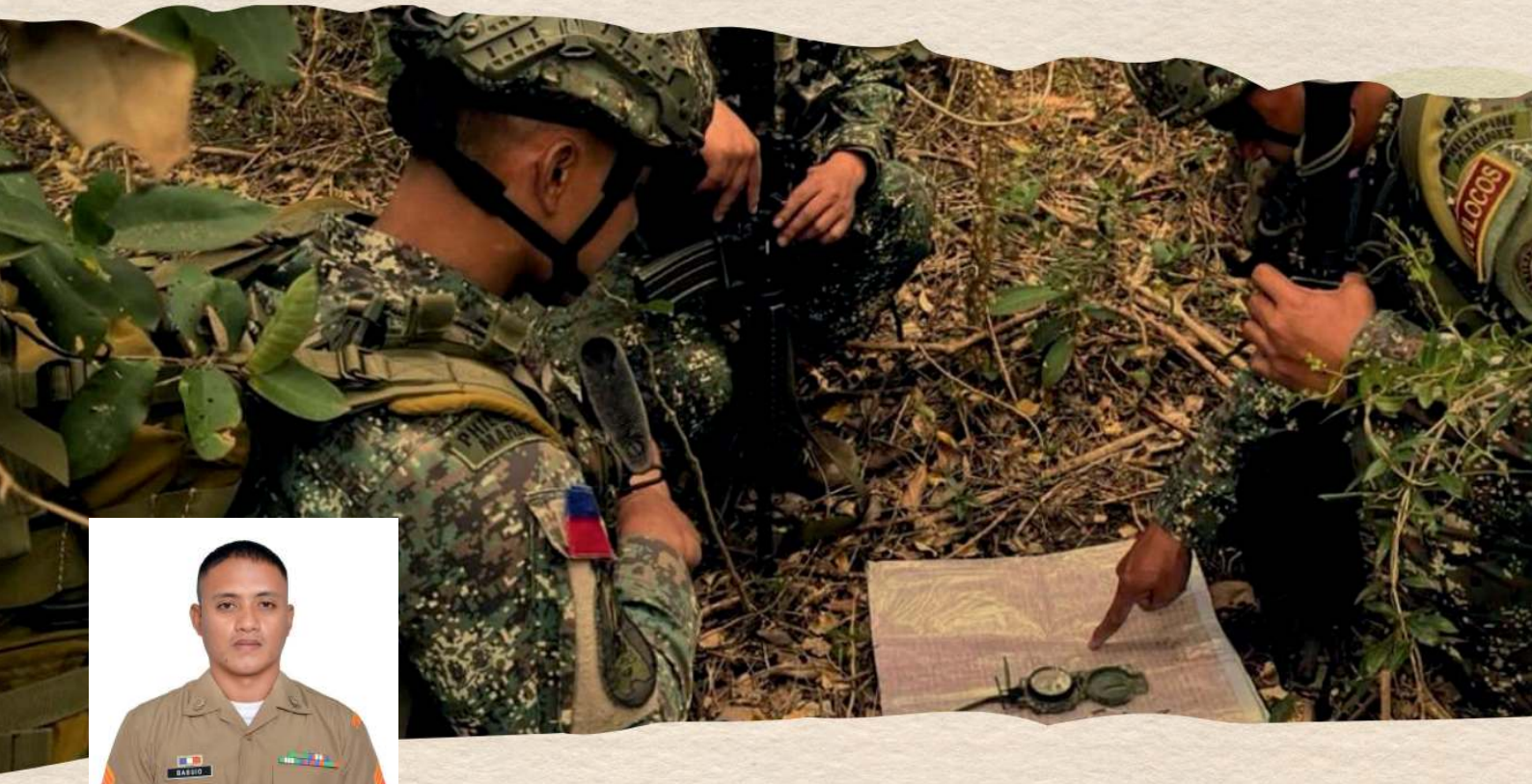
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Colonel John Paul S Jacla, PN(M), is the current Assistant Chief of Marine Staff for Education and Training, MC8 and was formerly assigned to the Marine Corps Force Development Center (MCFDC). He has served in command and staff positions at the platoon, company, and battalion levels, including command of a Marine battalion. His professional focus is on force development, training and education, and the integration of decision-centric learning methods, including staff rides, wargaming, and exercises, into Marine Corps training. The views expressed are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Philippine Marine Corps or the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

When Words Direct Fire: Marines Of The 4th Brigade Put Call For Fire To The Test



By: Cpl Rommel D Baguio PN(M)

There is a moment in every fire mission when everything hinges on the voice over the radio. The words must be precise, the sequence exact, and the Marine delivering the message composed enough to perform under pressure. This was exactly what Marines of the 8th Marine Rifle Battalion (8MRBn) trained for on March 09, 2026, during a live demonstration of Call for Fire procedures as part of the Artillery and Combined Arms Direct Combat Training. It was not a classroom lecture or a slide presentation. It was the real thing, executed the way it must be when it truly matters.

At its core, a Call for Fire is a disciplined method of communication. It enables a forward observer to clearly, quickly, and accurately relay critical information to the fire direction center by identifying the target, describing its nature, and specifying how it should be engaged. Precision is non-negotiable. When done correctly, indirect fire lands exactly where it is intended. When done poorly, the consequences can be irreversible. This is why Marines train on Call for Fire repeatedly until it becomes second nature. The training provided more than a refresher. It offered a tangible experience. Observing the full process firsthand, from identification and target location to engagement request, allowed participants to internalize each step in a way no written material can replicate. Personnel left not only understanding the procedure, but also appreciating the weight and urgency behind every transmission.

For the Marines of 8MRBn, training like this is not a one-time event but a continuous discipline. Mastery of fire support fundamentals is essential to operational readiness, and readiness is built through consistent, deliberate practice. Each demonstration, each repetition, and each correctly executed call strengthens that foundation. When the moment comes, and it always does, the voice on the radio remains steady, the message is clear, and the training speaks for itself.

APEX ACERO 05-2026

By: Pvt Arnel A Avila PN(M)



The Philippines is a nation defined by its vast coastline, where islands meet the sea, and communities depend on the waters for survival and identity. In such an environment, readiness is not optional but essential. The Archipelagic Coastal Defense Preparedness Exercise, known as APEX ACERO 05-2026, reflects the country's commitment to strengthening its defense posture by turning plans into action and ensuring that personnel remain mission-ready. As an archipelagic nation, the Philippines gains both strategic advantage and vulnerability from its geography. The surrounding waters sustain trade and food security, yet they also open avenues for external threats. From coastal communities to key maritime areas such as the West Philippine Sea, vigilance and preparedness remain constant requirements.

APEX ACERO 05-2026 serves as a comprehensive training exercise aimed at enhancing national readiness. It places participating personnel in realistic scenarios that simulate both security threats and natural disasters, allowing them to train under conditions that mirror actual operations. This approach ensures that participants are not only technically proficient but also capable of adapting to rapidly evolving situations. The training goes beyond routine drills by immersing personnel in environments where quick thinking and sound judgment are essential.

A defining strength of the exercise lies in its realism. Troops conduct beach landing operations while maintaining coordination with supporting units. Naval assets patrol surrounding waters and rehearse interdiction procedures, while aircraft provide aerial surveillance and relay critical information to ground elements. Each component operates in synchronization, reinforcing the importance of joint operations and seamless communication across different units.

Every movement within the exercise is deliberate and purpose-driven. Scenarios are carefully designed to test not only equipment but also personnel's decision-making capabilities. Participants are required to respond swiftly, coordinate effectively, and adjust to unexpected developments. This process builds confidence and sharpens the ability to operate under pressure, which is essential in real world missions.

Through APEX ACERO 05-2026, the Philippines continues to strengthen its preparedness and its capacity to respond to a wide range of challenges. The exercise stands as a testament to the nation's commitment to defense readiness, ensuring that its forces remain capable, responsive, and ready to safeguard the country in any situation.



Marine Reservists Conduct Successful Rifle And Pistol Live Firing Training In Batanes

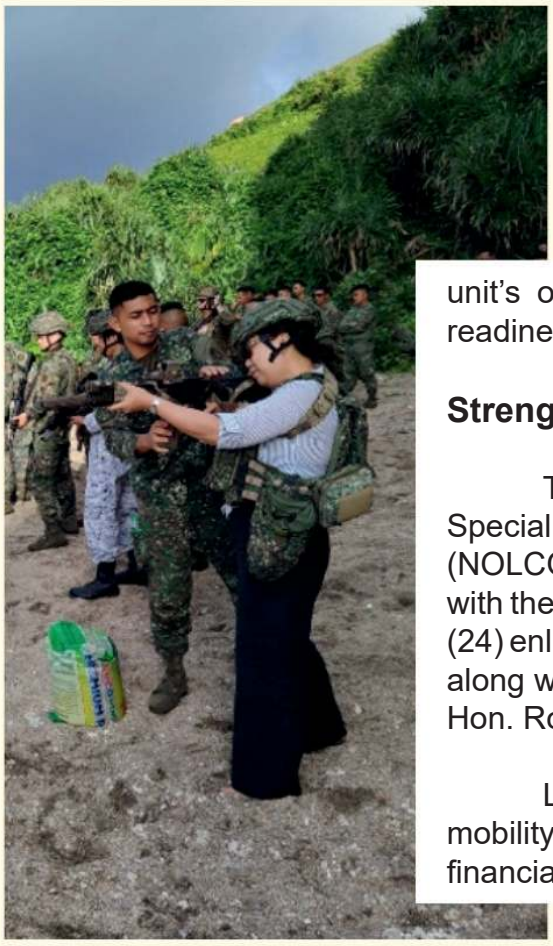
By: SSgt Richard G Gorobao PN(M)







The 210th Marine Company of the 10th Marine Rifle Battalion successfully conducted a Rifle and Pistol Live Firing Exercise for Marine Reservist personnel on March 8, 2026, at Dyahang Beach, Barangay San Antonio, Basco, Batanes. The activity forms part of the unit's ongoing efforts to maintain high standards of operational readiness and combat effectiveness among its personnel.



Strengthening Readiness Through Training

The training was facilitated by personnel from the Marine Special Operations Team (MSOT) - Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM), United States Marine Corps (USMC), in coordination with the 210th Marine Company. A total of one officer and twenty-four (24) enlisted personnel from the 210th Marine Company participated, along with four additional participants, including Batanes Governor Hon. Ronald P. Aguto Jr.

Logistical support for the activity included one Elf truck for mobility and ten (10) liters of automotive diesel oil (ADO), while no financial resources were allocated for the exercise.

Conduct of the Activity

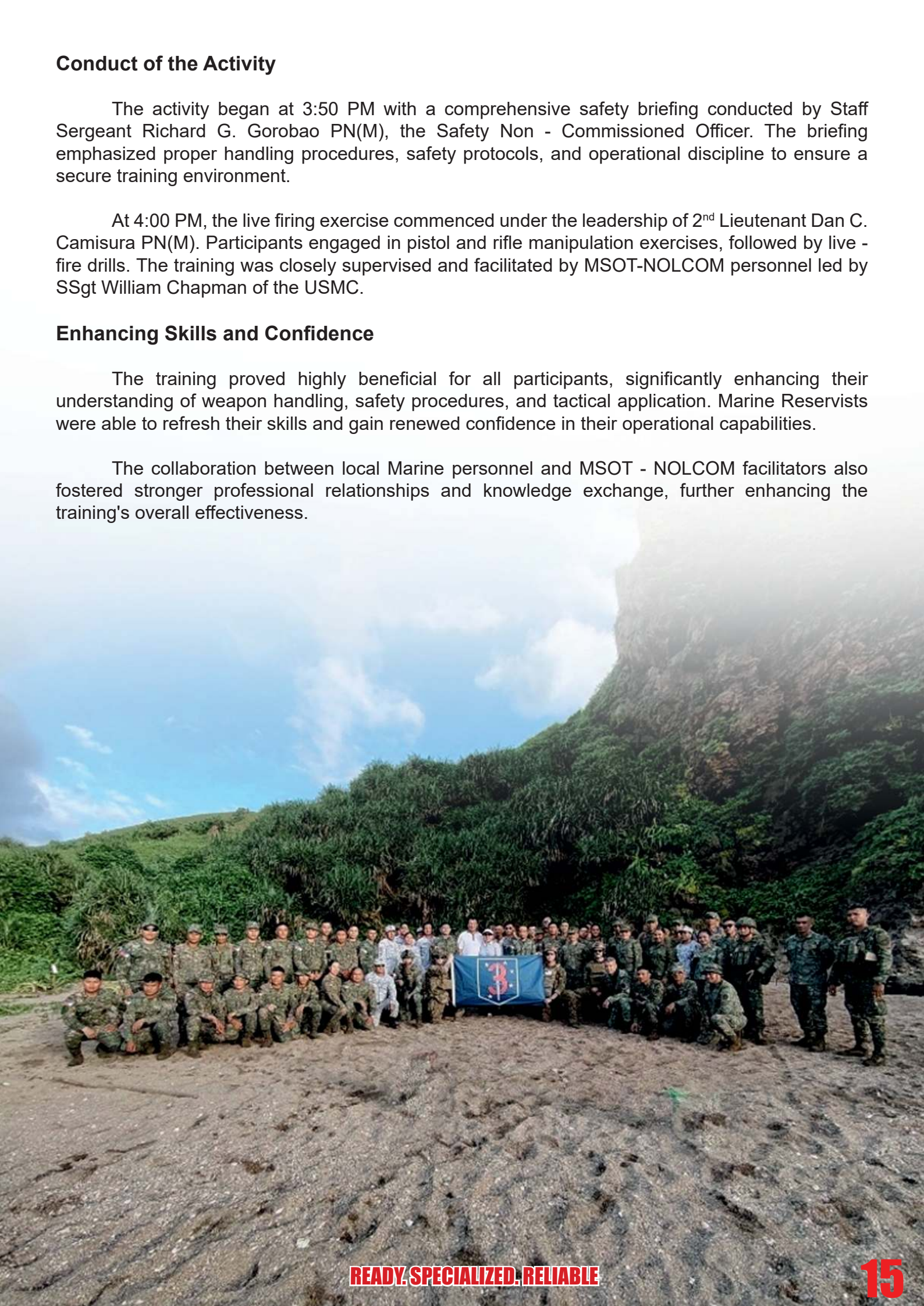
The activity began at 3:50 PM with a comprehensive safety briefing conducted by Staff Sergeant Richard G. Gorobao PN(M), the Safety Non - Commissioned Officer. The briefing emphasized proper handling procedures, safety protocols, and operational discipline to ensure a secure training environment.

At 4:00 PM, the live firing exercise commenced under the leadership of 2nd Lieutenant Dan C. Camisura PN(M). Participants engaged in pistol and rifle manipulation exercises, followed by live - fire drills. The training was closely supervised and facilitated by MSOT-NOLCOM personnel led by SSgt William Chapman of the USMC.

Enhancing Skills and Confidence

The training proved highly beneficial for all participants, significantly enhancing their understanding of weapon handling, safety procedures, and tactical application. Marine Reservists were able to refresh their skills and gain renewed confidence in their operational capabilities.

The collaboration between local Marine personnel and MSOT - NOLCOM facilitators also fostered stronger professional relationships and knowledge exchange, further enhancing the training's overall effectiveness.



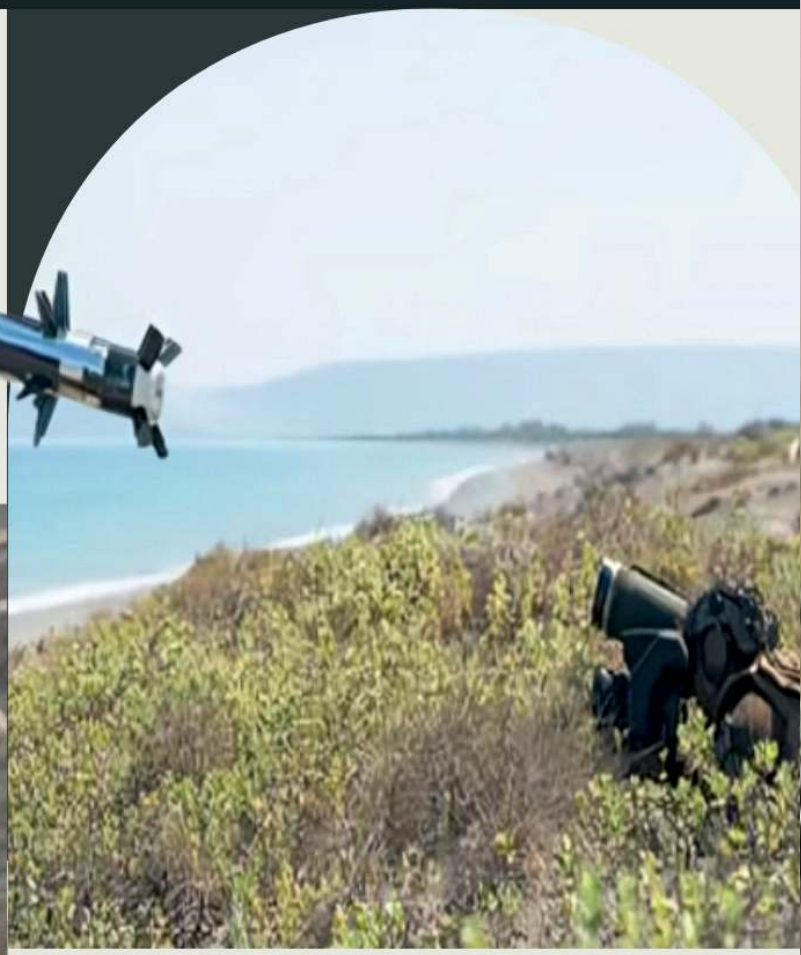
Military Exercise And Community Engagement

By: CPT DANIELLE JEAN D TORRES PN(M)



In response to the current situation in various countries and the present security risk, the Armed Forces of the Philippines have shifted their efforts to secure territorial defense.

The 10th Marine Rifle Battalion (MRBn), under 4th Marine Brigade, Philippine Marine Corps covers the eleven (11) coastal municipalities and two (2) Islands in the Province of Cagayan and the whole Province of Batanes. With vast areas to cover, the unit strategically deployed its sub-units and personnel in critical areas to protect the northern part of Luzon from potential threats or invasion. To improve personnel and capabilities, the unit regularly conducts scenario-based military exercises to sustain operational readiness, reinforce the defensive posture, and enhance combat effectiveness aligned with the Territorial Defense Operation concept against external threats.





Moreover, the unit began conducting community-based information drives, during which the community became aware of the situation and organized to be ready to provide support and assistance to the unit when needed. Fisherfolk's meeting, drivers and operators organization, and other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) meetings and forums were held, which will enable them to utilize them as a force multiplier during a possible external threat.

The unit also includes Marine and Navy Reservists, who are very critical in ensuring a certain number of forces are ready to be deployed in various critical key terrains and areas. Likewise, their expertise across different areas could support the unit's operational commitment.

The 10th Marine Rifle Battalion continuously conducts unilateral training to equip personnel with the necessary skills and capabilities in preparation for any external threat. These initiatives became pivotal in improving the Command and Control, Marine Forces Maneuver, and Communications, which are vital during the possible engagement.

In conclusion, the consistent conduct of unilateral exercises, partnered with strengthened coordination with stakeholders and community partners, significantly improves the unit's preparedness. These initiatives and efforts ensure that the 10th Marine Rifle Battalion remains capable of defending and responding effectively to any potential external threat.





ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY THROUGH FIREARMS TRAINING:

A Joint Activity With The 10th Marine Rifle Battalion

By: SSgt Renante S Pili PN(M)



The Trale Security Agency (TSA) formally sought the assistance of the 10th Marine Rifle Battalion (10MRBn), Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), in conducting refresher firearms proficiency training for its security personnel and in securing the use of the Abulug Firing Range.

From January 29–30, 2026, Sergeant Joseph R. Managuing, PN(M), serving as Range Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), supervised a two-day program consisting of pistol drills and diagnostic firing exercises for Trale Security Agency personnel at the Sta. Teresita Abulug Firing Range.

The primary objective of this training was to elevate firearms proficiency, instill discipline, and reinforce the operational readiness of security personnel engaged in law enforcement support roles. Through



structured drills and diagnostic assessments, participants were able to refine their technical skills, enhance confidence, and strengthen their effectiveness in real-world security operations. Through structured pistol drills and diagnostic firing, participants were able to improve their marksmanship and weapon handling skills. Identify shooting errors and correct them through guided coaching, develop confidence and control in the use of firearms. Diagnostic firing in particular, serves as a critical assessment tool to evaluate individual shooting performance, enabling instructors to tailor corrective measures for each participant.

The involvement of the 10th Marine Rifle Battalion highlights the military's vital role in capacity-building for civilian security sectors. As a highly trained unit, the battalion provides expertise in marksmanship, tactical instruction, and range safety management. Their participation ensures that training is conducted to a high standard, reflecting real-world operational conditions. It also fosters interoperability and mutual understanding between military forces and civilian security agencies.

The successful conduct of pistol drills and diagnostic firing at Sta Teresita Abulug Firing Range underscores the importance of continuous training in law enforcement. With guidance from Marine Instructors and support from the 10th Marine Rifle Battalion, participants gained valuable skills that enhanced their readiness, discipline, and effectiveness. Furthermore, activities like this reinforce the shared commitment to safeguarding the community, ensuring that those entrusted with firearms are competent, responsible, and prepared to serve.



8MRBn Spearheads Pekiti-Tirsia-Kali Training For Barangay PEACEKEEPERS

By: 2LT EMMANUEL Q QUIBAL PN(M)

"You will train your whole life for a four-second stick fight"
- Grandmaster Remy A. Presas



As part of the 4th Marine Brigade's guidance to encourage active participation of the populace in sustaining peace and maintaining order, the 8th Marine Rifle Battalion, through the 38th Marine Company, organized a Pekiti-Tirsia-Kali training for the Barangay Police of the Municipality of Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. The training which started on August 24, 2025, integrated discipline and basic martial arts techniques to develop the skills of the barangay peacekeepers.

The training was organized as part of the activities for the 75th Marine Birthday, in which seventy-five (75) Barangay peacekeepers were taught martial art techniques by Philippine Marine Corps Martial Arts Program to help preserve the ongoing peace in their respective barangays. To facilitate a better learning environment for the martial arts students, the barangays of Pagudpud were divided into two (2) Chapters: Chapter 1, comprising the barangays of Tarrag, Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Ligaya, Saud, and Subec. On the other hand, Chapter 2 covers Barangay Pasaleng, Balaoi, Pancian, and Caunayan.



Even under the scorching sun, the Barangay Peacekeepers did not mind the heat. As sweat drips from their faces, their experience adds up little by little. With every command of the instructor, they strike their sticks with vigor and precision. Every footwork is calculated, and every move is accompanied by a thundering shout. Their persistence and perseverance in learning helped them acquire new martial art skills that can be useful in keeping the peace in the community.

Learning Pekiti-Tirsia-Kali (PTK) is not an easy feat. Discipline is the key element that lays the foundation for our forefathers' martial arts. This shows that PTK training must be anchored in Discipline. Moreover, the seamless coordination between the instructors from the "PEACEMAKERS" and the "Student Peacekeepers" highly demonstrated being United in Purpose. At the end of the day, everyone aims to promote the use of martial arts for peace and order.

Teaching martial arts to the Barangay Police not only gave them new skills, it also further enhanced the relations of the Marines with the community. Their normal weekends became something to look forward to, as the end of the week approached, their learning session drew near. With the North having its PTK - trained barangay peacekeepers, its peacekeeping capabilities will be enhanced, ensuring a more peaceful and orderly community.

8th Marine Rifle Battalion, BFP Contain Madupayas Forest Fire In Rapid Joint Response



By: Pvt Elizer Q Abeño PN(M)



Acting with speed and precision, personnel of Headquarters, 8th Marine Rifle Battalion, under 4th Marine Brigade, rapidly responded to a forest fire in Barangay Madupayas, Badoc, Ilocos Norte, on March 14, 2026, demonstrating a high level of operational readiness and commitment to public safety. Upon receipt of the report, Marines were immediately deployed to support the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Badoc Fire Station and worked in close coordination with firefighters on the ground.

The combined forces conducted sustained fire suppression operations, establishing control lines and executing containment measures to prevent the spread of the blaze. Through coordinated action and disciplined execution, the fire was brought under control, reducing the risk to nearby communities and minimizing damage to surrounding forested areas. The operation highlighted the Marines' capability to effectively adapt to non-combat roles, particularly in disaster response and environmental protection.

This successful engagement underscores the critical role of inter-agency cooperation in emergency situations and reaffirms the Philippine Marine Corps' dedication to public safety, environmental stewardship, and humanitarian service. Headquarters, 8th Marine Rifle Battalion remains steadfast in its mission to protect lives, safeguard property, and preserve natural resources in support of national and local efforts across Northwestern Luzon.



The Day The Guns Went Quiet, Hope Spoke Loud



By: CPT GLEN D GABERTAN PN(M)





In the heart of Maguindanao del Norte, a powerful story is taking shape, one that proves peace is not a far- off promise but a living reality built by brave hands and willing hearts. The municipalities of Barira and Buldon are stepping into a new chapter, showing that when courage leads the way, even the toughest roads can turn toward hope.

On February 9, 2026, what unfolded was more than a public event; it was one of the defining moments. The presentation of surrendered, loose, and unregistered firearms became a symbol of transformation. Each firearm laid down marked a decision, a conscious choice to leave behind fear and embrace a future rooted in trust. Actions spoke louder than words, and this time, they echoed with hope. At the center of this movement stands leadership that refuses to back down in the face of challenge. Leaders who understand that peace is not achieved by chance but by choice, nurtured through persistence and unity. They did not just talk the talk, they walked the walk, inspiring their communities to follow suit and proving that when leadership is strong, people rise to the occasion.

Adding strength and clarity to this shared vision, Brigadier General Larry C Batalla PN(M), Commander, 1st Marine Brigade, stood side by side with local leaders and communities, reinforcing a message that resonated deeply. Peace begins at home. It grows from the choices families make, the trust neighbors build, and the courage communities show. Not just a ceremonial surrender of firearms but a powerful reminder that safeguarding the future of children and families is a responsibility shared by all.

This unified effort brought together local government units, security forces, and citizens, proving that real change happens when everyone pulls in the same direction. No longer working in isolation, they are building bridges, not walls. They are turning the tide, showing that when people come together, even the heaviest burdens become lighter to carry.

The leadership of Mayor Pahmia A. Manalao Masurong of Buldon and Mayor Abdul Rauf D. Tomawis of Barira shines brightly in this journey. Their commitment to inclusive governance and genuine community engagement has set the tone for progress. They have shown that leadership is not about authority alone, but about trust, connection, and the courage to do what is right even when the odds seem steep.

More than a milestone, the turnover of firearms tells a story that goes far beyond what meets the eye. It echoes a community finding its voice, choosing peace over conflict, and holding on to the belief that a better tomorrow is within reach. It proves that real change begins when people stand together rather than apart. Step by step, day by day, Barira and Buldon are rewriting their story with quiet strength and steady resolve. They show that peace is not built overnight, but shaped through everyday acts of courage, trust, and cooperation. And when it matters most, unity carries the day. Here, unity is not just spoken. It is lived, growing stronger and shaping a future that stands firm.

This is more than a milestone. It is a spark that lights the path ahead. A clear reminder that when the seeds of peace are planted with sincerity and nurtured by unity, they do more than grow. They endure, they inspire, and they shape generations to come.







From Shadow We Observe, Unseen But Present: No Risk Left Unattended, Keeping ASEAN Delegates Secured

By: 1LT DREXLER JADE R RAGPALA PN(M)



In the quiet rhythm of Coron's turquoise waters and limestone cliffs, a different kind of force moved - silent, calculated, and ever watchful. While delegates of the 44th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Capital Market Forum (ASEAN-CMF) convened from January 26 to 31, 2026, another mission unfolded behind the scenes - one defined not by visibility, but by vigilance.This was the domain of the Philippine Marines.

Led by Lieutenant Colonel Dejonne E Maralli PN(M), the 7th Marine Rifle Battalion (7MRBn) demonstrated once again why the Philippine Marine Corps stands as the nation's Most Ready, Specialized and Reliable Force - capable of securing not only battlefields but also critical national and international engagements.



Planning the Unseen, Securing the Known

Long before the arrival of ASEAN delegates, meticulous groundwork had already begun. Under the operational leadership of Major Dexter Glenn O Ramos PN(M), Battalion Operations Officer, and 2nd Lieutenant Drexler Jade R Ragpala PN(M), Officer-in-Charge of the 37th Marine Company, comprehensive planning and multi-agency coordination were executed with precision.

Every movement was studied. Every vulnerability assessed. Every possible threat is anticipated.

"Security is not just about presence - it is about preparedness for what cannot be seen."

Through synchronized efforts with partner government agencies, the Marines established a security framework designed to leave no risk unattended.

Dominating the Ground, Securing Every Route

At the forefront of the operation was an extensive deployment of Marine forces across strategic locations. Route security elements were positioned along key access points, ensuring the safe and uninterrupted movement of delegates. There were no gaps - only layers of protection.

Marines stood firm, not merely as guards, but as deterrents against any form of lawlessness. Their presence alone sent a clear message: Coron was secure. Simultaneously, round-the-clock mobile patrols maintained a dynamic security posture, constantly adapting to the environment. In the shadows, covert security elements blended seamlessly into the surroundings, monitoring without being seen - an embodiment of quiet professionalism.

Prepared for the Worst, Ensuring the Best

Beyond visible and covert deployments, the backbone of the operation lay in its readiness for escalation. A Quick Reaction Force (QRF) remained on standby throughout the duration of the event - fully equipped, highly trained, and ready to respond at a moment's notice. This layered approach ensured that, whether visible or unseen, the Marines controlled the operational environment at all times.

"We prepare for the worst so that others may experience the best."

More Than Security, A Mission of National Significance

The success of the 44th ASEAN-CMF in Coron extended far beyond the smooth execution of an international forum. Each secured convoy, each peaceful engagement, and each uneventful patrol contributed to something far greater, the Philippines' reputation on the global stage. These delegates represented not only institutions, but nations. Their safety, experience, and perceptions of the country were directly influenced by the security environment they experienced.
Through the unwavering efforts of the 7MRBn, the Philippine Marine Corps did not just ensure security - they reinforced trust, strengthened diplomacy, and safeguarded future partnerships.

The Silent Edge of the Most Ready Force

In missions like these, there are no headlines for battles fought, because none were needed. There are no stories of conflict - because none were allowed to happen.

And that is the true measure of success. The Marines of the 7th Marine Rifle Battalion operated where recognition is minimal, but impact is immense. They stood in the shadows, unseen but ever present - ensuring that peace prevailed without disruption.

"From the shadows, we observe. Unseen, but always present. No risk left unattended."

This operation stands as a testament to the Philippine Marine Corps' enduring commitment: to be ready at all times, in all scenarios - whether in combat, crisis, or quiet operations that shape the nation's future. Because when the mission demands excellence without error, the nation calls on its Marines.

And the Marines deliver.

EDUCATION AS A PILLAR OF PEACE

By: 2LT NIKKO H FAJARDO PN(M)

5MRBn: Building Peace through Education in Maguindanao Del Norte



In areas shaped by years of conflict, peace cannot be simply measured by theabsence of violence or silence. True peace is seen when children can walk to school without fear, when classrooms stand against uncertainty, and when learning replaces thedarknessofthepast. InSitioGumana,Barangay Linao, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Maguindanaodel Norte, peace has begun to take form through the Construction of 1 unit 2-Classroom Building at Maningula Elementary School. This is the result of the shared commitment ofprivate partners and the Philippine Marine Corps.





This project shows that military operations alone cannot secure the future of the Filipino people. Education must follow to create stability, as it can becomes the strongest force that sustains peace.

Education in Conflict-Affected Areas

In many cases, education is taken for granted in peaceful communities. However, in underdeveloped areas affected by conflict and instability, the absence of schools leads to long-term consequences. Communities remain in poverty, develop a false sense of security, and violence may return. Children who grow up without access to education are deprived not only of knowledge, but also of discipline

and direction needed to support peace and community development.

To break this cycle, more than military operations and temporary peace are required. It demands the establishment of institutions that guide young minds, shapes values, and prepare future generations to choose progress over conflict.

Conflict and Recovery in Maguindanao

Since the early 1970s, Maguindanao has been one of the provinces affected by armed conflict in Mindanao. The clashes between government forces and lawless armed groups have left lasting effects. Many communities struggled to survive, while children were deprived of proper education.

Peace efforts gradually improved the situation in the region. However, many remote areas remain underserved. The lack of school facilities continues to limit opportunities. In response, the Philippine Marines Corps has placed education as a key effort in sustaining peace.

The Teduray Community

In Central Mindanao, Sitio Gumana is part of the ancestral domain of the Teduray people. They are an indigenous group that has long lived peacefully in the region. However, decades of armed conflict displaced many families and restricted their access to basic services, especially education.

For many Teduray children, the absence of permanent schools became part of their reality due to conflict, poverty, and social exclusion. Providing accessible education in these communities is essential. It supports not only learning but also restores dignity and promotes long-term peace. The establishment of this school reflects a response to their needs and a commitment to nation-building.

Role of the FFCCCII

For many years, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) has contributed to national development. Through Operation Barrio Schools, the Federation addressed the shortage of classrooms nationwide, especially in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs).

Guided by the belief that no child should be denied education due to location or conflict, the Federation extended assistance to the community on October 14, 2025. By turning over the project to the 5th Marine Rifle Battalion (5MRBn), the Federation entrusted the Marines to transform plans into action.

5MRBn: Building Beyond Security

Under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Victor D Donque PN(M), the 5MRBn managed the construction of the school building. This effort highlights that the role of the Philippine Marine Corps extends beyond combat operations. It includes community development and peacebuilding.

The Battalion provided the manpower in this activity. Discipline and leadership ensured the successful completion of the project on January 14, 2026, after two (2) months of continuous work. This demonstrates that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is not only a force for defense but also for nation-building.

This school stands as a clear example of how peace is built step by step. Through cooperation among the FFCCCII, the Local Government Unit of Datu Blah Sinsuat, and the 5MRBn, education was delivered to a community long affected by conflict. For the Philippine Marine Corps, this project affirms that duty extends beyond defense. It includes protecting the future by helping educate it.

In the area, classrooms now stand strong, secure, and full of hope. Education remains one of the most effective tools for peace, and it is now firmly established.



When The Guns Fall Silent, 8th MRBn Shift From Warfighting To Welfare During APEX 05-26 "ACERO"

By: 2LT ABEGAIL N BATIOCO PN(M)



The thunder of simulated combat operations had barely faded when Marines of 8th Marine Rifle Battalion (8MRBn) began a different kind of mission, one rooted not in firepower, but in compassion. Following the successful conclusion of the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Preparedness Exercise (APEX) "ACERO" 05-2026 the unit deliberately transitioned from tactical maneuvering to community-centered recovery efforts, embodying the enduring principle that true strength lies not only in defense, but in service.

This transition phase, integral to the exercise design, mirrored the realities of post-conflict environments where military forces shift from securing terrain to stabilizing and rebuilding communities. For 8MRBn, this was not merely a simulation, but a reaffirmation of its Civil-Military Operations (CMO) mandate, bridging operational excellence with humanitarian responsiveness.

Across the province of Ilocos Norte, Marines mobilized once more; this time without weapons at the ready, but with tools, supplies, and a renewed sense of purpose. The battalion launched a series of Community Outreach Programs in areas directly affected by the exercise, ensuring that the presence of military forces translated into tangible benefits for local residents.

In the quiet grounds of Cabaroan Elementary School in Barangay Cabaroan, Pinili,

Ilocos Norte, children gathered not for drills, but for stories, laughter, and learning. Marines distributed books and toys, turning classrooms into spaces of hope and inspiration, even as they reinforced the importance of education in building resilient communities.

Similarly, in Barangay 17, San Felipe, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, the outreach at Ruiz Elementary School brought together families and service members in an atmosphere of cooperation. Free haircuts and feeding programs provided immediate relief, while casual conversations between Marines and residents strengthened bonds often forged only during times of crisis.

Farther North, in Sitio Dirique, Barangay Davila, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, Marines conducted coastal clean-up operations, an initiative that not only restored the natural beauty of the shoreline but also underscored the shared responsibility of environmental stewardship. Residents joined troops side by side, transforming the activity into a symbol of unity and collective action.

At Turod Elementary School in Barangay Turod, Badoc, Ilocos Norte, medical teams conducted blood pressure screenings, addressing a vital aspect of community health often overlooked in remote areas. These simple yet impactful interventions reflected the Marines' commitment to safeguarding not only territorial integrity but also the well-being of the Filipino people.

Meanwhile, in Barangay Caunayan, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, outreach efforts reached coastal families whose livelihoods are closely tied to the sea. Through information drives and engagement activities, Marines shared knowledge on safety, disaster preparedness, and sustainable practices, empowering communities beyond the exercise.

Each activity, though modest in scale, carried profound significance. Feeding programs nourished not just the body but also the spirit of bayanihan. Haircuts restored dignity. Books ignited curiosity. Clean-up drives revived shared spaces. Collectively, these initiatives painted a vivid picture of a military force deeply attuned to the needs of the people it serves.

As a Civil Military Operations Officer, it is clear that such engagements are not peripheral to mission success; they are central to it. The trust and goodwill cultivated during these interactions form the bedrock of operational effectiveness, ensuring that communities remain partners, not mere spectators, in national defense efforts.

Moreover, the outreach served as a heartfelt gesture of gratitude. The successful execution of (APEX) ACERO 05-2026 was made possible through the cooperation, patience, and support of local residents. By giving back, 8MRBn acknowledged this invaluable partnership and reinforced a cycle of mutual respect and collaboration.

In the broader scope of national security, the transition from combat readiness to community recovery illustrates the evolving role of the modern Marine. No longer confined to the battlefield, today's Marine stands as a guardian, a responder, and a partner in Nation building, ready to adapt to the complex demands of both conflict and peace.

Ultimately, the story of 8MRBn during APEX 05-2026 "ACERO" is one of balance between strength and compassion, readiness and recovery, duty and humanity. As the battalion returns to its core mission, it carries with it not only lessons from simulated warfare but also the enduring impact of service rendered where it matters most: among the people.



Awakening Minds, Strengthening Defenses: 8MRBn Advances WPS Awareness Through "Oplan Mulat"





By: Pvt Elizer Q Abeño PN(M)



Demonstrating its commitment to both national security and community engagement, Marines of Headquarters 8th Marine Rifle Battalion (8MRBn) successfully conducted a West Philippine Sea (WPS) Information Drive dubbed "Oplan Mulat" at Virgen Milagrosa Elementary School, Brgy La Virgen Milagrosa, Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

The activity aimed to educate students on the importance of the West Philippine Sea, emphasizing its critical role in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Through engaging discussions, Marines instilled a sense of patriotism and awareness among the youth, highlighting their role as future stewards of the nation.

Simultaneously, a Reservists Recruitment activity was conducted among VMES faculty members, encouraging them to take an active role in national defense by joining the reserve force. The initiative underscored the vital contribution of educators not only in shaping young minds but also in strengthening the country's defense framework.

Aligned with its Civil Military Operations (CMO) objectives, 8MRBn continues to promote public awareness and active participation in nation-building. Through "Oplan Mulat," the unit reinforces its partnership with the community, fostering a more informed, resilient, and security conscious society beyond the Northwestern Luzon frontier.



“PUNDAQUIT HIKE” Pre-Anniversary Activity Of SBASMBn With 8MC, 8MRBn

By: Cpl Joefer T Parao PN(M)

"The best view comes after the hardest climb".

The “Pundaquit Hike”, an awe-inspiring journey deeply embedded in the heart of Zambales, serves as a powerful symbol of the untamed beauty of nature and the unwavering strength of the human spirit. Far from being a simple outdoor recreation, this hike represents a transformative opportunity for the Marines and strengthens the organization’s bonds. In a world increasingly dominated by inactive habits, undertaking the “Pundaquit Hike” serves as a potent reminder of the essential roles that discipline and perseverance play, qualities that resonate profoundly in both personal aspirations and collaborative activities.

As hikers navigate the challenging, rugged terrain leading to the summit of Mount Pundaquit, Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion (SBASMBn) and 8th Marine Company, 8th Marine Rifle Battalion personnel encountered obstacles that demand unwavering determination and acute focus. Every stride taken along this picturesque pathway instills a profound sense of accomplishment that extends far beyond mere physical effort. This experience calls upon not only physical stamina but also robust mental resilience, a poise that closely resembles the fundamental principles ingrained in military training. Just as we Marines refine our skills through relentless training, likewise cultivate resilience through interactions with the natural world's hurdles.

Beyond the individual gains, the Pundaquit Hike cultivates a strong sense of camaraderie among participants. The shared adversities and celebrated victories along the trail forge enduring connections, creating a feeling of collective accomplishment that transcends the summit itself. The stunning panoramic vistas from the peak serve as a fitting reward, embodying the spirit of perseverance and the extraordinary beauty awaiting those who courageously step outside their comfort zones. It is an experience that leaves an enduring impression, inspiring participants not only to cherish the natural world but also to recognize and embrace their own internal strength and untapped potential.

The pre-anniversary activity reflects the strength of teamwork and a shared commitment, emphasizing the value of uniting to celebrate milestones in a meaningful way. Every step toward the summit represents the collective dedication and perseverance that embody the spirit of SBASMBn and 8MC, 8MRBn. As participants complete the journey, they will carry with them a deep sense of achievement and fulfillment. The connections built throughout the experience will go beyond the hike itself, strengthening camaraderie, building lasting friendships, and fostering a deeper sense of unity within Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion (SBASMBn) and 8th Marine Company, 8th Marine Rifle Battalion.



WARRIORS WHO HEAL:

1st MARINE BRIGADE COMMEMORATES 51 YEARS WITH BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

By: Cpl Avery L Tagabi PN(M)



In every drop of blood donated, there is a story of courage, service, and selflessness. For the 1st Marine Brigade, service has never been confined to the battlefield alone. As the saying goes, “real strength is measured not by the battles won, but by the lives saved.” This enduring truth was once again brought to life through a successful bloodletting activity conducted in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross Cotabato Maguindanao Chapter at the Covered Court, Headquarters 1st Marine Brigade, Camp Iranun, Sitio Bombaran, Brgy Togaig, Barira, Maguindanao del Norte on February 16, 2026.

Anchored on the theme “Laging Handa, Sa Laban, sa Pagliligtas,” the activity formed part of the Brigade’s 51st Activation Day celebration, marking over five decades of unwavering duty, sacrifice, and loyalty to the Filipino people. More than a milestone, it stood as a living reminder that readiness is not only defined by combat capability but also by the willingness to answer the call of humanity.

In a world where emergencies strike without warning, the Brigade reaffirmed a simple but powerful truth: service must always be alive, purposeful, and compassionate. The bloodletting activity transformed celebration into contribution, and tradition into tangible impact. It highlighted that every Marine is not only a warrior of the nation, but also a guardian of life.

A total of Sixty-Four (64) personnel from the Brigade's organic units, Operational Control elements, and attached units responded without hesitation, embodying the spirit of bayanihan at its purest. Each donor became a living testament that heroism is not only measured by combat achievements but also by quiet acts that save lives.



Each bag of blood collected represents renewed hope for patients in critical need across hospitals and emergency facilities in the region. It stands as a powerful reminder that service does not always echo in the noise of battle; sometimes it flows silently yet profoundly, sustaining life where it is needed most, one drop of hope at a time.



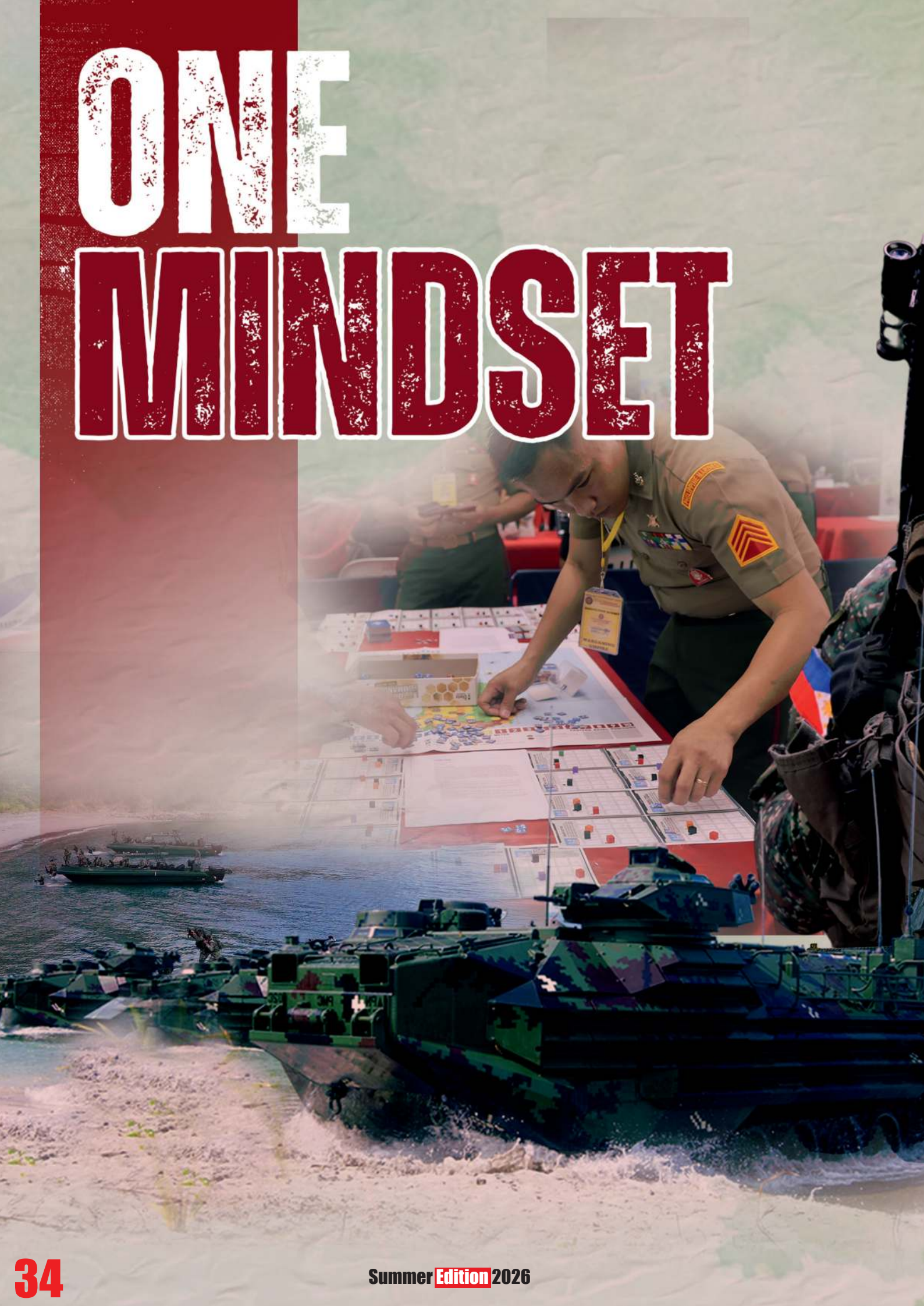
The success of the activity was made possible through the steadfast partnership of the Philippine Red Cross Cotabato Maguindanao Chapter, whose commitment ensured the safe and efficient conduct of the blood donation drive. Together, this collaboration proved that when hearts and hands move in unison, service becomes stronger than any challenge, and compassion becomes a force that binds communities with resilience and purpose.



As the 1st Marine Brigade marks 51 years of dedicated service, it carries forward a legacy anchored on honor, duty, and compassion. Indeed, the Brigade stands firm on the belief that true warriors are not only tested in the heat of battle but also measured in the quiet moments of giving. In every drop shared, there is a story of sacrifice, in every life saved, a mark of lasting honor. For the Marines, service is not just a duty fulfilled, it is a legacy lived, a promise kept, and a calling that continues to stand the test of time.



ONE MINDSET




3032
APN
MARINES



Honoring The Birth Of Philippine Marine Corps Amphibious Operation

"The Filipino Marine does not intend to bask in the glories earned by the Marines of other countries. When he shall finally assault some bloody beaches, he will start his own traditions."
— LTSG Manuel L. Gomez, PN

Establishment Of The First Historical Amphibious Landing Site Marker

By: Marine Historian Office

Recognizing the historical significance of this milestone, the Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps directed the establishment of a historical marker in Barangay Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon Province. The marker commemorates the site of the first amphibious landing conducted by the Philippine Marine Corps.

This initiative aims to preserve the event's legacy, promote public awareness, honor the bravery and sacrifices of the Marines involved, and highlight Umiray's importance in the nation's military history.

A Planning, Coordination, and Oversight Committee, chaired by Colonel Charlie A. Domingo Jr., PN(M)(GSC), was organized to oversee the project. Beginning November 24, 2025, a survey team coordinated with Hon. Eric Astrera of Barangay Umiray, who welcomed the group and assisted in identifying the most suitable location for the memorial site based on Marine Historical Office (MHO) records.

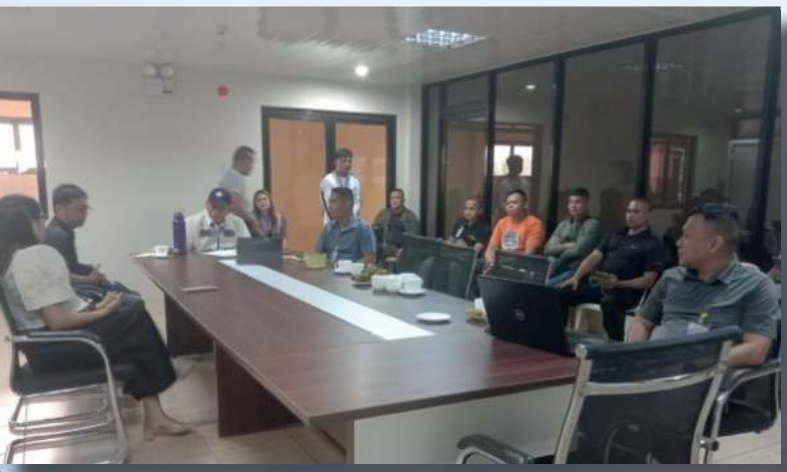
On January 19, 2026, representatives from the Marine Historian Office (MHO), Marine Corps Intelligence Battalion (MCIBn), Marine Corps Engineering Office (MCEO), and Marine Corps Real Estate Office (MCREO) conducted a courtesy call to Hon. Mayor Alfredo Juniosa Pujeda. The proposal for the historical marker was favorably received, resulting in a commitment to allocate approximately 1,500 square meters of land, covered by a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) supposedly awarded to Atty. Romeo Roxas - for the construction of the monument.

On March 23, 2026, the Project Management Team, headed by Colonel Primrose H. Corral, PN(M)(GSC), initiated the construction of the marker, with implementation led by the Marine Corps Engineering Office. As of this writing, construction is ongoing and is targeted for completion on April 19, 2026, in time for the inauguration and unveiling of the historical marker.

Further coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of General Nakar continues. As of March 26, 2026, the Municipality has confirmed that the Executive Agenda, including the Deed of Donation, has been submitted to the Sangguniang Bayan for approval.

Legacy and Significance

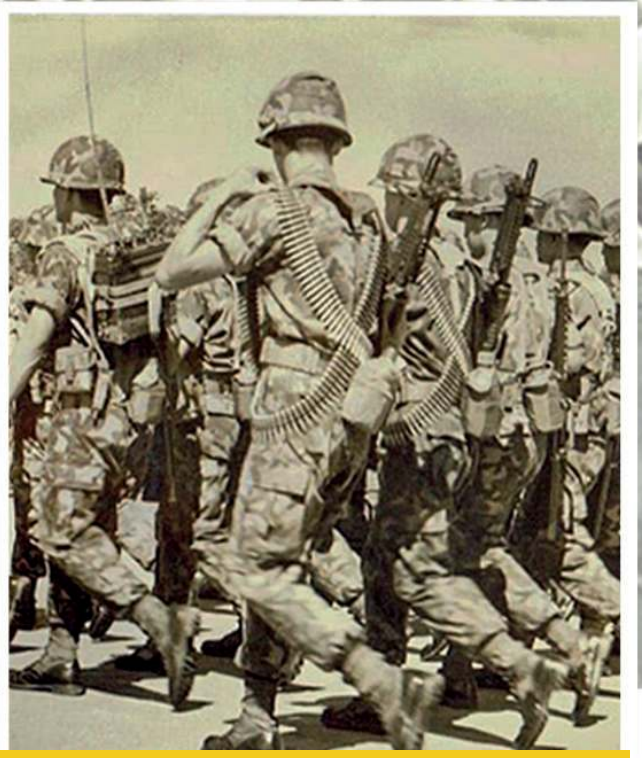
The installation of the historical marker commemorating the first amphibious landing operation of the Philippine Marine Corps stands as a lasting testament to the Corps' heritage. It serves to educate future generations, honor the courage and sacrifices of the pioneering Marines, and reinforce the historical importance of Umiray, General Nakar, and Quezon. More than a monument, it symbolizes the beginning of a proud tradition, one forged not in borrowed glory, but in the determination, discipline, and identity of the Filipino Marine.





ROOTS AND ORIGINS @75:
FROM THE SHORES OF UMIRAY





By: MAJOR KELLY A REGALADO PN(M)

On the same hallowed shores where the first generation of Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) once waded ashore, the Corps returned to its roots to mark a diamond milestone in General Nakar, Quezon. On April 19, 2026, the PMC formally inaugurated Military Park Umiray through the Unveiling of a Commemorative Marker of its First Amphibious Landing. The event, held in observance of the Corps' 75th Marine Birthday, was a tribute to the 1951 landing that birthed the Philippine Marine Corps.

This commemorative occasion was presided over by Major General Vicente MAP Blanco III PN(M), the 37th Commandant, PMC. Joining him were Marine Veterans who once walked these same shores; local government units led by the Honorable Alfredo J Pujeda, Municipal Mayor; former Commandants; and the people of barangay Umiray, whose presence bore witness to the unbroken bond between the Marines and the community.

In his address, Major General Blanco reflected on the weight of the moment: "This commemorative marker is more than mere stone and steel. It stands as a living testament to the gallantry, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the Philippine Marine Corps. As we pay tribute to our pioneers, we hereby reaffirm our solemn commitment to uphold their ideals, 75 years of Karangalan, Katungkulan, at Kabayanihan."

Two (2) distinguished Marine Veterans, whose leadership set historic standards within the Corps, delivered responses as living witnesses to history: 2nd Lieutenant Jose P. Dagdagan PN(M) (Ret), the First AFP Sergeant Major from the Philippine Marine Corps, and Lieutenant General Edgardo V Espinosa AFP(Ret), the 17th Commandant. Lieutenant General Espinosa AFP(Ret) spoke of the site's strategic value and the enduring civil-military bond, 2nd Lieutenant Dagdagan PN(M)(Ret), his voice carrying the weight of generations, offered these

words: “This is not just a commemoration. This is a return to where it all began, where our predecessors stood firm in duty and honor.”



The newly unveiled marker now stands as a permanent monument to the Corps’ illustrious past and a symbol of the enduring legacy upheld in Barangay Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon. Following the unveiling, a tree-planting activity embodied the Command’s commitment to environmental stewardship. To conclude the historic endeavor, the PMC conferred Plaques of Recognition to distinguished stakeholders and partners, and presented the 75th Marine Birthday Commemorative Coins in grateful acknowledgment of their invaluable support for this historic endeavor.

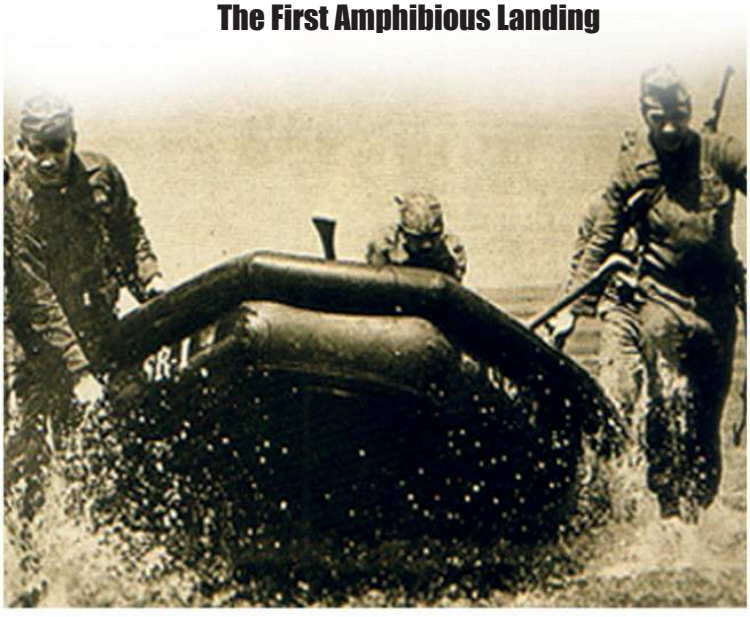
In understanding the significance of this historic first in that very landmark, one must look back three-quarters-of-a-century, to a period when the concept of a Filipino hard-hitting seaborne strike force was nothing more than a bold directive on a piece of paper. And so we look back to some key features, not many Marines might know, about this notable piece of history.



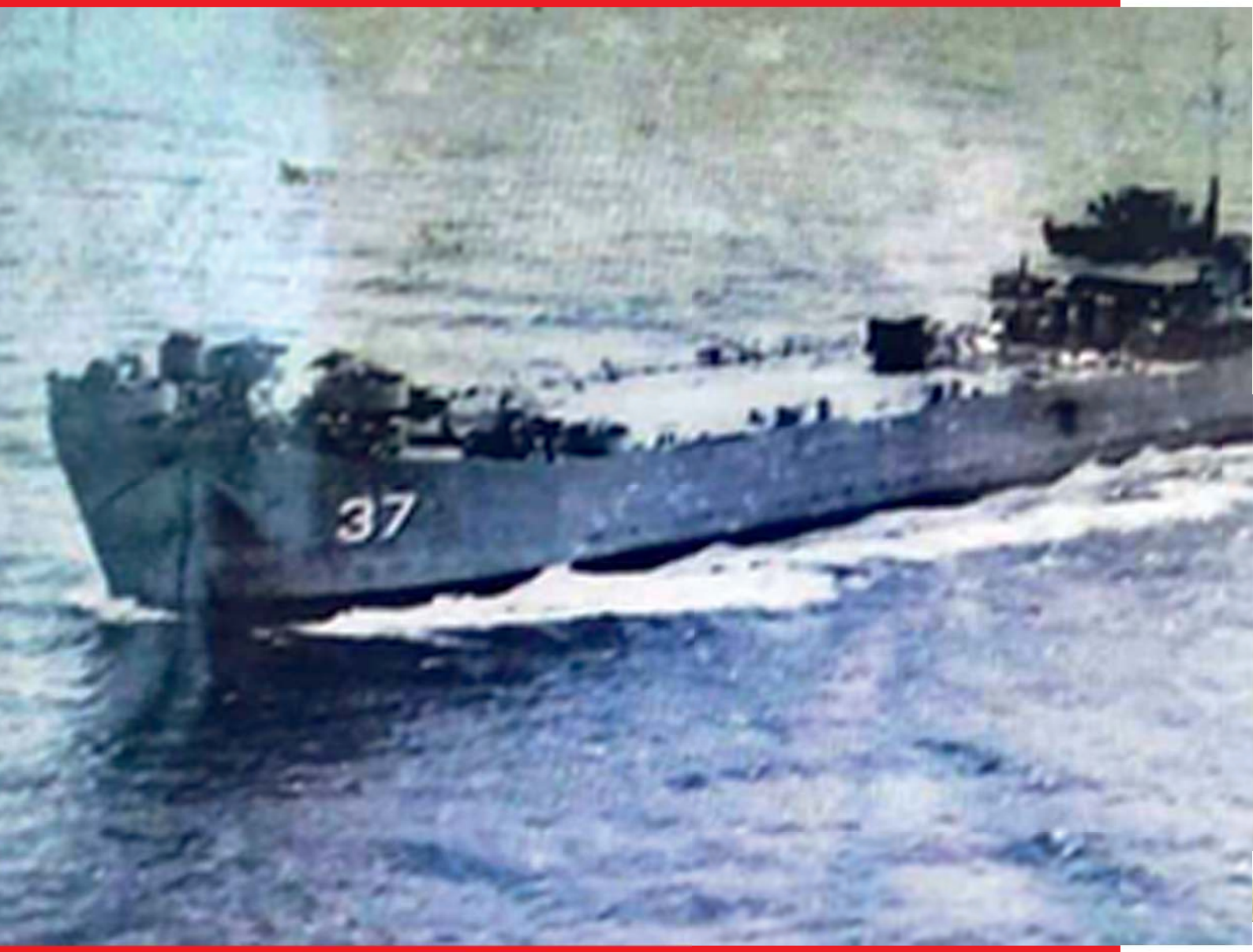
The Genesis: “A” Company

To create a light and hard-hitting seaborne force, “A” Company was activated on November 7, 1950, as the pioneering unit of the Philippine Marine Corps. Composed of Six (6) Officers and Two Hundred Six (206) Enlisted Personnel, mostly World War II veterans. The unit was tasked with neutralizing threats along the archipelago's vast coastlines. Under the command of Lieutenant Senior Grade Manuel L Gomez PN, these men underwent relentless training to become the "cutting edge" of the Armed Forces, eventually executing the nation’s first amphibious landing in Umiray, Quezon.

The First Amphibious Landing



The tempo of “A” Company’s initial training was interrupted when the unit was ordered to conduct its first-ever amphibious raid in Umiray, Quezon as part of Operation “Dragnet.” The mission was clear, neutralize communist Huk rebels and secure the coastline. To reach the target, the Marines boarded the RPS Pampanga (LT-37), formerly the USS LT-842, which ferried them toward the shores of Dingalan Bay. While the Marines seized their first beachhead uncontested, the landing resonated far beyond the silence of that shoreline. It was more than a routine deployment; it was the definitive baptism of the Philippine Marine Corps, forever celebrated as the birth of Philippine amphibious warfare.



RPS PAMPANGA (LT-37)

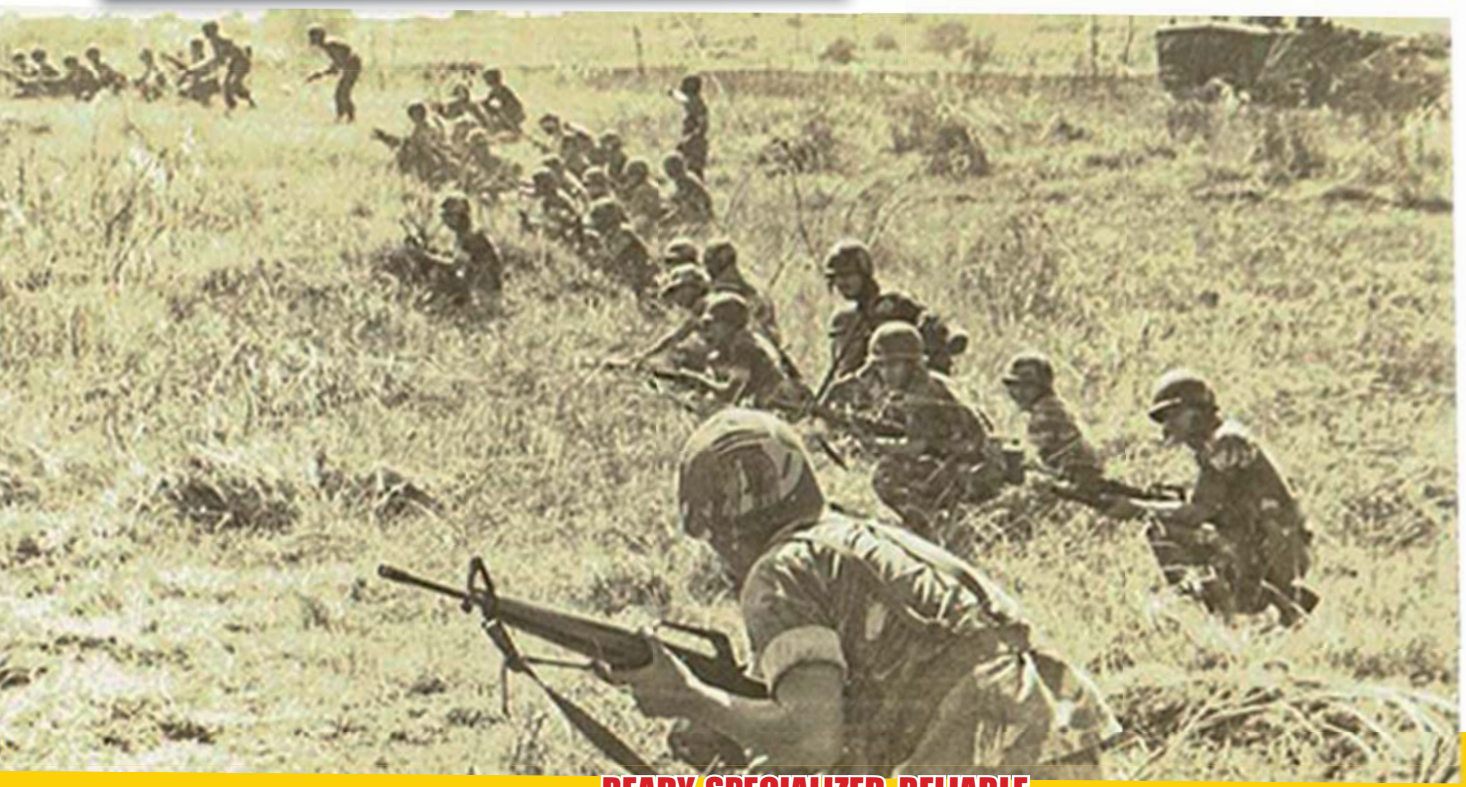
The RPS Pampanga (LT-37) was a battle-hardened workhorse of the Philippine Navy, originally a veteran of the Battle of Okinawa, that became a cornerstone of the nation's post-war amphibious capability. Beyond her historic role in the Umiray landing, RPS Pampanga, skippered then by CDR Tomas Robenul PN, served as a vital lifeline during the Korean War (1950–1954), conducting critical Combat Service Support Operations for the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK). She was the Third Landing Ship Tank including RPS Cotabato (LT-36), RPS Bulacan (LT-38), RPS Albay (LT-39), and RPS Misamis Oriental (LT-40) received by the Philippines after the Second World War. The RPS Pampanga remained a symbol of Philippine naval reach and resilience until her decommissioning in late 1970.

A LEGACY RENEWED

As the sun sets over the Pacific and reflects off the new granite marker in Umiray, the legacy of “A” Company remains an enduring force within the Corps. The Inauguration of Military Park Umiray is not merely an act of looking backward; it is a renewal of a sacred vow. It serves as a reminder that every modern Marine who wades through the surf today carries the DNA of those 212 original volunteers who dared to start their own traditions on the very sands of Umiray.







PMC Delivers Various Services as Pre-Commemoration Activity of the 1st Amphibious Landing in Umiray



By: MAJOR DENNIS D SADLAY PN(M)

Standing true to their role as defenders of the nation and servants of the people, the Philippine Marine Corps successfully conducted a Community Relations (COMREL) activity at Brgy. Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon, on April 18, 2026. Held as part of the commemoration activity of the 1st Amphibious Landing of the Philippine Marine Corps, this mission exemplified the Corps' enduring tradition of service and compassion, with the objective of fostering a stronger sense of community while addressing the health needs of residents.

The event was conducted in close coordination and strong partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of General Nakar, Quezon, and the Barangay Government of Umiray. It was graced by Colonel Clifford

Nickanor P. Basco, PN(M), Assistant Chief of Marine Staff for Civil Military Operations, MC7, and Hon. Eric A. Astrera, Brgy. Chairman, signifying the unified commitment between the military and local leaders for public welfare.

The activity rendered a wide array of services, including medical consultation, electrocardiogram (ECG), urinalysis, ultrasound, and free circumcision. The mission successfully benefited 1,183 residents with medical services, distributed 13 wheelchairs and crutch units, provided 203 pairs of reading glasses, facilitated 126 free haircuts, distributed 209 kitchen aprons, and handed out 509 educational reading booklets.

In the spirit of bayanihan and festivity, the troops served hot meals to 587 residents, distributed 4,000 packs of Minute Maid juice, 400 assorted toys, 110 PMC folding fans, and 357 packs of candies, delighting community members and children.

In line with nation-building, the Corps also conducted a PMC Mobile Recruitment and Reservist Recruitment information drive, inviting the next generation of patriots to enlist and serve the country as regular Marines or reservists.

The success of this endeavor was made possible through the invaluable partnership of Philippine Marine Corps Foundation Incorporated (PMCFI), Bravo Company, 80th Infantry Battalion, Alagang Kapatid Foundation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Ships Philippines, and Brgy. Umiray Health Workers, Zonta Club of Greater Rizal II, and various distinguished individuals. The PMC recognizes and commends the dedication of its medical professionals, personnel, and volunteers, whose selfless service and unwavering commitment remain the pillars of this mission's success.









FROM SEA TO LAND:

THE MAKING OF A MARINE OFFICER

By: 2LT CHRISTIAN JORN G BON PN(M)



I have heard people say that the sea is harsh, but the land demands even more. For those who wear the White Caps of the Philippine Navy, the call to serve is something felt deeply in the bones. Yet for some of us, a different kind of challenge awaits: a call to stand firm on the ground, to lead from the front, and to trade the rolling decks of ships for the rugged terrain of the battlefield. This is the story of those who answer that call, who join the Marine Officer Basic Course and emerge, transformed, from Sailors into Marines.

I am 2nd Lieutenant Christian Jorn G Bon PN(M), formerly Ensign Christian Jorn G Bon PN. Yes, you read that right. I was once part of the White Caps of the Philippine Navy. I joined the Philippine Navy as a Naval Officer to sharpen my leadership, broaden my knowledge of military service, and give back to the country that supported me as a scholar. Now, I have joined the Philippine Marine Corps to challenge myself, surpass my limits, and immerse myself in the camaraderie, discipline, and professionalism that define the Corps, where honor and respect for seniority are lived, not merely preached. It is not a matter of changing your badge or the color of your uniform. It is a transformation of mindset. You leave the world of ships and sailing to learn how to fight and lead warriors on the ground. You become a “Soldier of the Sea.” This transformation

does not happen easily. It demands courage, resilience, and an iron will - forged through sweat, pain, and unwavering determination inside the Marine Officer Basic Course.

The Marine Officer Basic Course is not designed to make you comfortable. It is designed to forge you into something stronger. Like fire that reduces raw metal to molten form before shaping it into hardened steel, the Course strips you down before building you back up. The days are long, the sun is relentless, and the standards are uncompromising.

Every student officer, regardless of region or background, quickly learns that there are no shortcuts here. The training pushes the body to its limits, and then demands more. We run long distances with full combat gear, scale grueling obstacles, and conduct tactical exercises day and night. But beyond the physical, it is the mind that is most rigorously tested and trained.

I learned that every Marine Officer is, first and foremost, a Warrior. Regardless of your field of specialization, you must know how to employ a weapon, lead your men under fire, and survive in austere conditions. You master tactics, military law, and amphibious operations - ship to shore - until these skills become second nature.

Every class produces stories that define the spirit of the Corps. There are officers who trained through injury and exhaustion, who refused to quit when every muscle demanded rest. There are men and women who collapsed beneath the weight of their packs - and rose again, not for themselves, but for the person beside them. The training is designed to break you, precisely so it can rebuild you stronger. Physical exhaustion becomes routine. The scorching sun, the pouring rain, and the uneven terrain become familiar ground. It is in these moments of raw fatigue that true character emerges - not when things are easy, but when the mind screams “stop” and the heart answers “forward.”

Consider the story of one officer during Final Exercise Week. He had gone without sleep, with barely any food, and his mind was pushed to the edge of its limits. Yet when the moment came to lead his team, he stood tall. His voice carried authority. He pressed everyone forward - not because he felt strong, but because his Marines needed him to be.

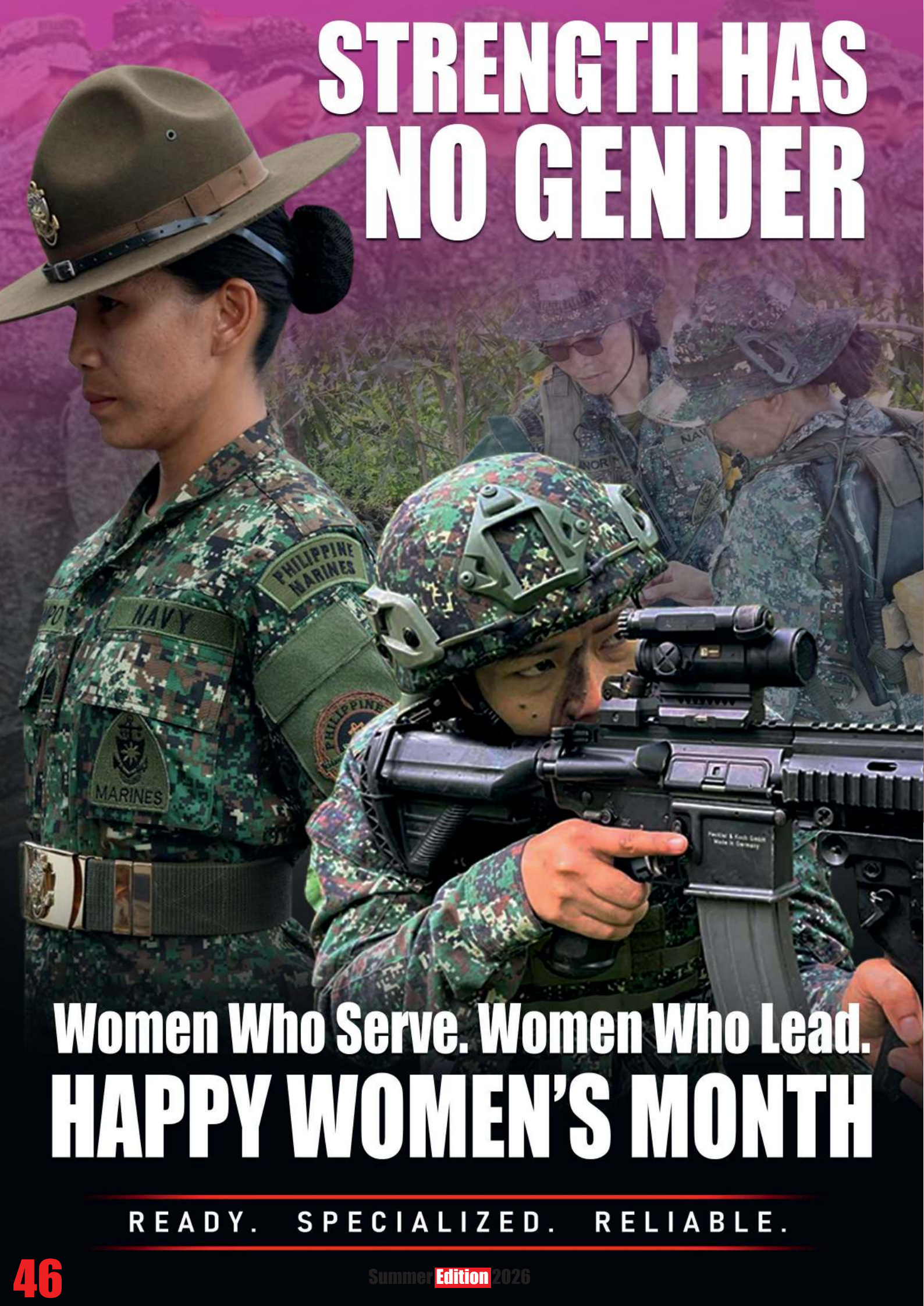
This is what the Marine Officer Basic Course teaches you. Leadership is not about being the strongest or the fastest, it is about being the most determined. You learn that the honor of your unit rests on how faithfully each officer does his part. The mud, the sweat, and the blisters are not punishments; they are proof. Proof that you endured. Proof that you did not quit. In the Corps, mediocrity has no place.

Beyond the physical demands, the Marine Officer Basic Course shapes you into a True Marine in character and conduct. You live by three words: Honor, Duty, and Heroism. You learn that wearing the Marine emblem is not a privilege, it is a responsibility. It means being ready to serve at all times. It means standing firm when others falter and protecting the people without hesitation. Above all, you learn that true discipline is not merely following orders. It is doing what is right, even when no one is watching.

The bonds forged here are permanent. Classmates become brothers and sisters for life - bound not by choice, but by shared suffering and shared triumph. When one stumbled, others shared their water, adjusted the pace, and reminded him why he was there. This is the essence of the Corps: no one is left behind. This is ultimately why I chose the Philippine Marine Corps, for the unmatched camaraderie and the quiet professionalism of every man and woman who proudly belongs to the fewest and the proudest.

Graduation day is not the end, it is only the beginning. The officers who march across that parade ground are not the same individuals who reported for training months before. They have been tested, broken, and rebuilt. They carry the mind of an officer and the unbreakable heart of a Marine. They are ready to serve the nation - at sea, in the mountains, or in the heart of the city. They are the guardians of the Republic.

To those who are currently going through this training: ***Hold The Line***. The pain you feel today is nothing compared to the pride you will carry for the rest of your life. Every grueling moment is preparation for the battles you will win in the years ahead. As our Commandant, PMC, Major General Vicente MAP Blanco III PN(M), said on our graduation day: ***“Always remember that your rank will give you authority, but it is your character that will earn you the respect and trust of your Marines”.***


STRENGTH HAS
NO GENDER
PHILIPPINE MARINES
NAVY
MARINES
Women Who Serve. Women Who Lead.
HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH
READY. SPECIALIZED. RELIABLE.



Celebrating Women Of Strength In The Philippine Marine Corps

By: Ms. Yanna Niza B Bernardino, CHR – O/MC7

This Women's Month, the Philippine Marine Corps celebrates women as they continue to break barriers in a male-dominated institution. They face demanding challenges as they navigate to find their place and identity within the organization. More importantly, they demonstrate that the true power of strength is not defined by physical power alone, but by resilience, determination, and the ability to thrive in spaces where they are respected and valued as a vital force in the PMC.

While women in the Philippine Marine Corps embody boldness and courage in their field, my role as a Civilian Human Resources contributes to a different yet equally important role. By fostering an environment grounded in respect, inclusivity, and equal opportunity, Civilian Human Resources support the very foundation of institutional memory, enabling them to succeed in every mission they undertake. Being part of the backbone of the organization, while not battling in the field, also means strengthening the people behind every mission. Through this, we help create a workplace where all women in the PMC feel a true sense of belonging.

This commitment of the PMC to creating a women-supportive and inclusive environment is not merely a principle; it is also reflected in initiatives such as the “Wellness for Women Warriors” health and wellness seminar conducted by the Philippine Marine Corps Foundation Inc. (PMCFI). This program focused on educating female Marines and the CHRs on essential health topics, raising awareness, and promoting overall wellness. It further aimed to advance health education, prevent health risks and illnesses, and empower women by guiding them to better understand and care for their overall well-being.

Women of the Philippine Marine Corps stand as proof of strength, perseverance, and courage. Their role as an essential part of the force reflects the Corps’ support and recognition of their value. In celebrating women within the PMC, we affirm that each is seen, heard, and empowered.



BREAKING BARRIERS, EMPOWERED TO LEAD: HONORING THE STRENGTH AND CAPABILITY OF FEMALE COMBAT ENGINEERS







By: 1LT FIDEL A TRINIDAD JR PN(M)

In today's rapid transformation, women are not merely redefining their roles across all professions, they are breaking barriers, reshaping systems, and leading with unwavering purpose. This global shift was powerfully underscored by Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, who urged the world to see women not through traditional titles, but as "generation shapers", a powerful recognition of their vital role in nation-building and shaping the future.

In the same spirit, the Combat Engineering Battalion (P) continues to champion the empowerment of women within its ranks. In a field historically defined by male dominance and operational intensity, ZAPADORES stands as a powerful testament to the strength, competence, and leadership of women in uniform. Beyond participation, the unit recognizes women as indispensable drivers of mission success and pillars of organizational excellence.

At the forefront is 1st Lieutenant Junalyn O Boncales PN(M), Acting Logistics Officer, whose leadership and technical acumen have earned the trust and confidence of the unit. She has been entrusted with the Self-Reliant

Defense Posture (SRDP) Project ALAKDAN. An innovative initiative focused on developing an Indigenous Modular Bridging System in support of the PMC Mission. Designed for rapid bridge deployment, slipway support for amphibious and logistics operations, and temporary crossings for troops and mobility assets, the project embodies both operational necessity and forward-thinking design. Its alignment with multi-role engineering application position it as a critical capability enhancer. Once realized, ALAKDAN will become the PMC's second-ever Combat Engineer Heavy Equipment asset, complementing the first, a backhoe loader named "TAGAHAWAN," acquired by the Combat Engineering Battalion on September 17, 2025. Together, these assets embody the Zapadores' enduring mission: to enable, support, and prepare the path for the successful execution of PMC Mission.

Equally distinguished is Major Eunice M Pulga PN(M), Operations Officer, whose leadership as a female Operations Officer ensures the seamless execution of operational commitments and unit trainings. Her leadership has been instrumental in sharpening the unit's readiness and strengthening the capabilities of its personnel. Beyond operations, she has also brought honor to the unit through her marksmanship excellence. During the Combat Support Brigade Fun Shoot on March 12, 2026, she stood as the sole female member of the unit's shooting team and played a decisive role in securing championship in the Team vs Team category. She likewise excelled individually, placing 1st in the stage 1 category and ranking 3rd Best Shooter Overall among Fourty (40) participants, an accomplishment that reflects her precision, discipline, and competitive excellence.

The unit likewise demonstrated strong support for the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Gender and Development campaign, particularly during the National Women's Month Celebration, anchored on the theme "We for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society." This initiative underscored a renewed commitment to advocacy, inclusivity, and empowerment.

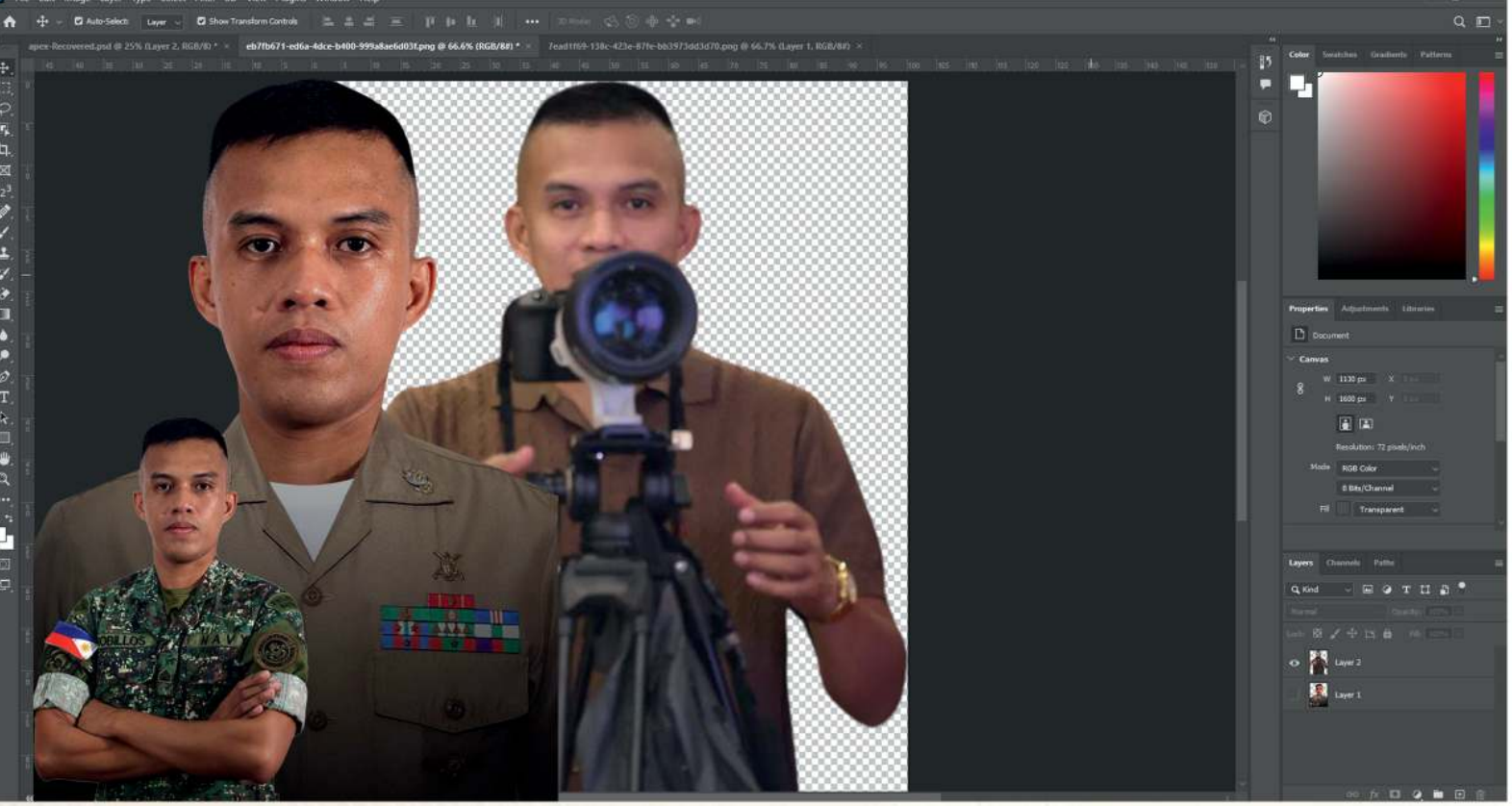
Among those who exemplified this commitment is Captain Shiela Marie A Agoo PN(M), Administrative Officer, who excels in managing administrative functions while safeguarding the welfare and morale of personnel. She also actively promoted health and camaraderie by participating in the AFP-wide "Run with Her" event held on March 21, 2026 at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Meanwhile, Sgt Hilda D Acosta PN(M) and Sergeant Dalia A Mesa PN(M) demonstrated both competence and confidence in their respective staff roles, as well as operational proficiency through successful rifle record firing, reinforcing that women engineers are equally capable in combat-related mission.

Another remarkable milestone was achieved by Private Allison Zael Del Amor PN(M), who demonstrated exceptional resilience by completing the rigorous Marine Special Operations Training Class 01-2026 (February 19, 2026 to April 13, 2026). As the only female participant, she overcame intense physical and mental challenges, proving that determination and grit know no gender. Her accomplishment stands as a powerful testament to the expanding role of women in demanding military training and operations.

These achievements go beyond individual success, they reflect a culture rooted in inclusivity, excellence, and empowerment within the Combat Engineering Battalion (P). Much like the global recognition of women as "generation shapers," the unit continues to challenge stereotypes and redefine what it means to serve.

Indeed, Team ZAPADORES does not simply support women, it elevates them as leaders, innovators, and warriors shaping the future.





Pagbabalanse ng Buhay Sundalo: Pamilya, Serbisyo, at Financial Freedom

By: Cpl Avel T Robillos PN(M)

Ang pagiging sundalo ay isa sa mga pinaka-mahirap ngunit pinakamarangal na hanapbuhay. Sa bawat araw ng pagsisilbi, kasama nito ang sakripisyo-mga mahahabang oras ng trabaho, banta sa kaligtasan, at madalas na pagkakahiwalay mula sa pamilya. Sa kabila ng mga pagsubok na ito, posible pa ring makamit ang tamang balanse sa pagitan ng trabaho, pamilya, at pinansyal na kalayaan. Bagamat hindi ito madaling gawin, maaring makuha ito sa pamamagitan ng disiplina at malinaw na pagtukoy sa mga layunin.

Ang batayan ng isang balanseng buhay ay ang malinaw na pagkilala sa mga pangunahing prayoridad. Bilang isang sundalo, napakahalaga ng ating tungkulin para sa bansa; gayunpaman, hindi dapat kalimutan na ang pamilya ang nagsisilbing suporta at inspirasyon sa bawat laban. Ang pagkakaroon ng tiyak na dahilan kung bakit ka nagtatrabaho nang mabuti ay nagbibigay ng gabay sa bawat desisyon, maging ito man ay tungkol sa oras o pera.

Mahalaga ang disiplina sa wastong pamamahala ng oras. Kahit na walang kontrol ang sundalo sa kanyang iskedyul ng tungkulin, may kakayahan tayong magdesisyon kung paano natin gugugulin ang oras sa mga aktibidad. Ang pagbibigay ng ganap na atensyon sa pamilya tuwing may pagkakataon, kahit na para sa maikling panahon, ay may malaking kontribusyon sa pagpapalakas ng relasyon. Ang halaga ng oras ay mas importante kaysa sa dami nito. Kasabay nito, ang pag-iwas sa mga hindi kapaki-pakinabang na gawain ay tumutulong upang mapanatili ang atensyon sa mga bagay na talagang mahalaga.

Ang pinansyal na katatagan ay mahalagang aspeto ng isang balanseng buhay. Ang tunay na kalayaan sa pananalapi ay hindi nakabatay sa laki ng kita, kundi sa wastong pamamahala nito. Ang patuloy na pag-iipon, pagtatayo ng emergency fund, at maingat na pag-invest ng salapi sa mga ligtas at legal na pagkakataon ay mga paraan

upang masiguro ang hinaharap. Para sa isang sundalo, ang magandang plano sa pananalapi ay nagdudulot ng kapayapaan ng isip kahit na mayroong mga hindi tiyak na kondisyon sa serbisyo.

Kasabay nito, mahalaga ring huwag kaligtaan ang relasyon sa pamilya. Ang mahusay na komunikasyon ay susi para mapanatili ang matatag na ugnayan, lalo na kung madalas kayong magkahiwalay. Ang simpleng pagtawag, pag-text, o kahit na ang pagpapakita ng presensya mula sa malayo ay may malaking epekto sa emosyonal na estado ng bawat kasapi ng pamilya. Ang isang sundalo na may solidong suporta mula sa kanyang pamilya ay nagiging mas matatag at handang gampanan ang kanyang mga responsibilidad.

Napakahalaga na magkaroon ng pangmatagalang pananaw. Ang pagtanggap sa serbisyo militar ay hindi isang desisyong tumatagal habangbuhay, kaya't mahalagang ihanda ang sarili para sa buhay pagkatapos nito. Ang maagang pagtitipid, wastong pagba-budget, at tamang pagpaplano ay magiging batayan para sa isang mas tahimik at maayos na hinaharap.

Ang tunay na tagumpay ng isang sundalo ay hindi lamang nakikita sa kanyang ranggo o mga medalya, kundi sa kanyang kakayahang balansehin ang iba't ibang aspeto ng buhay, o bilang tagapagtanggol ng bayan, haligi ng pamilya, at responsableng namamahala sa kanyang kinabukasan. Sa wastong disiplina, malinaw na mga layunin, at pagmamahal sa pamilya, ang balanseng buhay at kasarinlan sa pinansyal ay hindi lamang isang pangarap-ito ay isang layuning maaaring matupad.





Sa Hanggahan ng Hilaga:

Ang Aming Tungkulin sa Sitio Banua

By: Pvt Carl Angelo A Pajes PN(M)



Kung titingnan ang mapa, ang Pagudpud sa Ilocos Norte ay madalas na tinatawag na “Huling Hantungan” sa hilagang bahagi ng ating kapuluan. Ngunit para sa amin na nakatalaga rito, lalo na sa Sitio Banua, Barangay Balaoi, hindi ito katapusan kundi simula ng aming tunay na tungkulin bilang mga marino. Sa lugar na ito kung saan ang hangin ay may dalang amoy ng dagat at ang mga bundok ay tila sumasayad sa kalangitan, bawat araw ay isang pagsubok at pagkakataon upang ipakita ang kahulugan ng paglilingkod.

Nagsimula ang aking pag-ikot nang dumating kami sakay ng aming mga sasakyan, tinatahak ang mga daang makikipot at mabato patungo sa mga lugar na hindi madaling marating. Sa Sitio Banua, malinaw ang aming misyon na panatilihin ang seguridad ng ating baybayin at tiyaking walang sinumang makakapasok o makakagawa ng masama nang hindi namin namamalayan. Ang aming mga patrol ay hindi lamang karaniwang paglalakad. Mula sa pagsikat ng araw hanggang sa paglubog nito at maging sa katahimikan ng gabi, binabantayan namin ang bawat sulok, mula sa malalawak na buhanginan hanggang sa mga mabatong pampang na mahirap daanan. Sinusuri namin ang bawat kakaibang galaw, ang mga bangkang hindi pamilyar, at ang anumang senyales ng aktibidad na maaaring magbanta sa ating soberanya at kapayapaan.

Subalit hindi lamang sandata at estratehiya ang bumubuo sa aming tungkulin. Ang pinakamahalagang bahagi ng aming pagiging marino ay ang ugnayan namin sa mga taong aming pinoprotektahan. Sa Balaoi, ang mga tao ay kilala sa sipag at katapatan. Sa bawat pagbisita namin sa mga tahanan at pakikipag-usap sa mga nakatatanda at pinuno ng barangay, unti-unting napapalitan ng tiwala ang anumang pag-aalinlangan. Napatunayan namin na ang pinakamabisang paraan upang mapanatili ang kaayusan ay ang pakikipagtulungan ng komunidad sa pagbabantay.

Kapag natatapos ang aming mga pagsasanay at pagbabantay, nakikibahagi rin kami sa mga gawaing sibilyan. Tumulong kami sa pagkukumpuni ng mga daanan, sa paglilinis ng



kapaligiran, at sa pagbibigay ng kaunting tulong medikal at payo sa mga residente na malayo sa mga pasilidad pangkalusugan. Sa ganitong mga karanasan, mas nauunawaan namin ang kanilang pinagdaraanan at lalo naming nakikita ang kahalagahan ng aming presensya. Hindi lamang kami tagapagbantay kundi bahagi ng kanilang komunidad.

May mga pagkakataong mabigat ang pagod. Ang init ng araw ay matindi at ang ulan ay walang pinipiling oras. Ngunit sa tuwing makikita namin ang mga batang malayang naglalaro at ang mga nakatatandang bumabati at nag-aalok ng simpleng pagkain o inumin, napapawi ang lahat ng pagod. Sa mga sandaling iyon, ramdam namin na ang bawat sakripisyo, bawat gabing puyat, at bawat hakbang na aming tinatahak ay may tunay na saysay.

MOBC Classes 49 and 50 Formally Graduate, Ready to Serve as Newest Marine Officers

By: MAJOR JAN P MALANA PN(M)

After more than six months of rigorous training, Marine Officer Basic Course (MOBC) Classes 49 and 50 officially graduated during ceremonies held on April 23, 2026 at Acero Hall, Headquarters Philippine Marine Corps.

The graduating classes comprised of 53 student officers drawn from Naval Officer Candidate Course (NOCC) Classes 40, 41, 42, and 43, as well as the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 2025. The ceremony was presided over by Major General Vicente MAP Blanco III PN(M), Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps.

In his message, Major General Blanco reminded the graduates that while their training has ended, their duty has only just begun, urging them to uphold the discipline, courage, and honor of the Corps.

"The Corps has molded your strength, resilience, and loyalty. Stand ready to defend freedom with dignity and unwavering resolve," he said.

Recognized for their outstanding academic performance were:

Top 3 MOBC Class 49:
2nd Lieutenant Ayson Glenn A Aowes PN(M) Graduated No. 1 with a GWA of 96.25%
2nd Lieutenant Warren Christopher A Andacao PN(M) Graduated No. 2 with a GWA of 95.89%
2nd Lieutenant Mart Angel E Somera PN(M) Graduated No. 3 with a GWA of 95.84%

Top 3 MOBC Class 50:
2nd Lieutenant Melchor Menelaus A Daniel PN(M) Graduated No. 1 with a GWA of 96.35%
2nd Lieutenant Tracy Anselmo A Miranda PN(M) Graduated No. 2 with a GWA of 96.31% . Also a recipient of the MALAKAS AWARD for achieving a perfect score of 100% in all periodic Physical Fitness Tests (PFT).
2nd Lieutenant Jericho G Villa PN(M) Graduated No. 3 with a GWA of 96.23%

The graduation marks the graduates' formal entry into active service as commissioned Marine officers. As the newest leaders of the Corps, they will soon be assigned to various Philippine Marine Corps units - where the true weight of leadership, the full measure of responsibility, and an unwavering commitment to service await.



PMC PRODUCES NEW SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS:

DOMINATES TOP RANKS IN AFP SERGEANT MAJOR COURSE

By: Sgt Cheniemer N Soriano PN(M)

Five representatives from the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC), competing among 36 senior enlisted students, successfully graduated from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Sergeant Major Course Class 18-2026 with high distinction, securing the Top 1, Top 2, and Top 4 spots during graduation ceremonies held at the Training Command, Philippine Army, Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac on April 28, 2026.

The Marine graduates also received numerous awards for exemplary academic performance and overall excellence:

MSgt Lodrigo C. Fernandez PN(M), Top 1 with a GWA of 93.780% Commander, TRACOM Award | Expert Skill Award | Best Commandant's Paper Award

MSgt Edgar R Telan PN(M),Top 2 with a GWA of 93.471% Commander, TRACOM Award | Expert Skill Award

MSgt Jover D Empuesto PN(M), Top 4 with a GWA of 93.173% Expert Skill Award

MSgt Alan D Dacera PN(M), Rank 17with a GWA of 92.053% Commander, TRACOM Award | Expert Skill Award | Best Commandant's Paper Award

MSgt Melchor P Sito Jr PN(M), Rank 20 with a GWA of 91.869% Commander Group Award | Expert Skill Award

The AFP Sergeant Major Course is a vital inter-service program designed to foster unity, professional growth, and the pursuit of excellence among the senior enlisted leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The performance of the PMC contingent in this latest class is a testament to the Corps' enduring culture of discipline, competence, and the relentless drive to lead from the front - in every rank, in every arena.





PMC Honors The Day Of Valor: United In Remembrance And Steadfast In Service

By: 2LT ANGELICA F ABES PN(M)

In a unified observance across the archipelago, the Philippine Marine Corps conducted simultaneous Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremonies nationwide in solemn commemoration of the 84th Anniversary of Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) on April 9, 2026.

From Headquarters to forward-deployed units, Marines gathered in reverent remembrance alongside civilian employees to honor the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering spirit of the nation's heroes who laid down their lives in the pursuit of freedom, justice, and lasting peace. The observance commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag, a symbol of the unity and resilience that define us as a nation.

The commemoration concluded with wreath laying ceremonies led by key leaders of the Corps across different regions of the country. Major General Vicente MAP Blanco III PN(M), Commandant, PMC, led the ceremony at the 2nd Marine Brigade located in Barangay Sanga-Sanga, Tawi-Tawi. Brigadier General Geiram R Aragones PN(M), Deputy Commandant, PMC, conducted the ceremony at the Heroes' Memorial in Headquarters, Philippine Marine Corps.

Simultaneous ceremonies were conducted in various units nationwide. Colonel Michael Ariel V Delos Reyes PN(M)(MNSA), Deputy Brigade Commander, led the activity at Headquarters 3rd Marine Brigade in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Brigadier General Bob R Apostol PN(M) conducted the ceremony at Military Park Cape Bojeador, Headquarters 4th Marine Brigade in Burgos, Ilocos Norte. Brigadier General Armando B Custodio PN(M) led the ceremony at Headquarters Combat Support Brigade, Subic, Zambales. Colonel Rommel B Bogñalbal PN(M)(MNSA), Commander FRR, led the observance at Headquarters Force Reconnaissance Regiment, Ternate, Cavite. Lieutenant Colonel Chito Wamil PN(M) conducted the ceremony at Headquarters 2nd Marine Rifle Battalion in Parang, Maguindanao del Norte. Second Lieutenant Elvin S Longasa PN(M) of the 3rd Marine Rifle Battalion led the observance at Corregidor Island, Cavite. Sergeant Eliezer B Cliano PN(M) of the 7th Marine Rifle Battalion led the ceremony at San Vicente, Palawan. Major Clifford A Pacatang PN(M) of the 8th

Marine Rifle Battalion led the activity at Veterans Park and Shrine, Batac City, Ilocos Norte. Second Lieutenant Romeo M Turingan PN(M) of the 10th Marine Rifle Battalion conducted the ceremony at Aparri Public Park, Aparri, Cagayan.

This gesture of eternal remembrance honored those who offered their lives in service to the country. The laying of wreaths symbolized the continuity of the spirit of heroism, the sacrifices of past Marines remaining a guiding light for the Marines of today. It served as a solemn reminder of the courage and selflessness that shaped the nation's history and strengthened the Corps' enduring tradition of honor and duty. It reminded every Marine of the noble ideals our forebears fought for and of the responsibility to uphold truth, serve with integrity, and remain steadfast in protecting the freedoms they secured.

Across every formation nationwide, one message resonated clearly: the legacy of valor is not confined to history. It lives on in the character, compassion, and commitment of every Marine who carries the mission forward today.



Philippine Marine Corps Honors Fallen Thai Marines, Advances Bilateral Cooperation

By: Marine Corps Public Affairs Office

Led by Major General Vicente MAP Blanco III PN(M), Commandant, PMC, honored the fallen heroes of the Royal Thai Marine Corps (RTMC) during a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Marine Monument at RTMC Headquarters on February 27, 2026.

The ceremony was rendered with full military honors, including a minute of silence, a three-volley salute, and the playing of Phaya Soke (elegy), paying tribute to Thai Marines who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation.

Following the ceremony, Major General Blanco conducted an official courtesy call with Vice Admiral Apichart Sapprasert, Commandant of the Royal Thai Marine Corps. The engagement reaffirmed the strong professional ties between the two Marine forces and underscored their shared commitment to strengthening defense cooperation.

The visit formed part of a Key Leaders' Engagement (KLE) between the PMC and RTMC aimed at expanding Marine-to-Marine collaboration within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) security framework.

Both leaders discussed priority areas of cooperation, including participation in multinational exercises such as Cobra Gold and Kaagagapay ng mga Mandirigma ng Dagat (KAMANDAG), professional military education exchanges, subject matter expert engagements, and modernization dialogue. They also exchanged views on regional maritime security and interoperability while exploring opportunities for expanded bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including RTMC participation in exercise KAMANDAG 2026 and upcoming forums such as the Pacific Amphibious Leaders Symposium 2026 in Honolulu, Hawai.

The engagement highlighted the enduring values of honor, sacrifice, and solidarity shared by the Philippine and Thai Marine Corps while reinforcing their commitment to advancing regional stability, maritime security, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response cooperation.







PMC Participates in 8th PA - JGSDF Working Group Meeting in Japan

By: CPT ELICA ANTONIETTE KAYLA V HONDUNA PN(M)



The Philippine Marine Corps alongside the Philippine Army, participated in the 8th Philippine Army - Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Working Group Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan, from April 7 to 10, 2026.

This security cooperation engagement builds upon the landmark Japan - Philippines Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) and Acquisition and Cross - Servicing Agreement (ACSA), signaling a deepening of bilateral defense ties and a new chapter in regional security cooperation.

The PMC delegation, led by Colonel Ashley N Nastor PN(M)(GSC), Deputy Commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, actively engaged in comprehensive discussions focused on assessing previous commitments and identifying opportunities for future joint exercises, capacity building initiatives, and defense exchanges.





Philippine Marine Corps Officer Completes USMC Basic Officer Course

By: Marine Corps Public Affairs Office

The PMC proudly congratulates 2nd Lieutenant Mikko Angelo D Agas PN(M), a member of Naval Officer Candidate Course (NOCC) Class 39, for successfully completing the United States Marine Corps Basic Officer Course conducted at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, USA, from August 04, 2025 to March 13, 2026.

During the seven-month course, 2nd Lieutenant Agas had the opportunity to train alongside officers of the USMC and other partner nations in what is widely regarded as one of the most demanding foundational courses for Marine officers. The program focuses on developing young leaders capable of leading Marines in combat through instruction in leadership, infantry tactics, amphibious operations, and essential warfighting skills. The course involved intensive classroom instruction, tactical planning exercises, and rigorous field training that tested not only the students' knowledge and technical skills but also their endurance, discipline, and leadership under challenging conditions. Through this training, Marine officers are further equipped to apply the knowledge and skills gained in support of the PMC continuing mission and operational readiness.

The successful completion of the course by 2nd Lieutenant Agas reflects both his dedication as a Marine officer and the PMC continuing commitment to developing competent leaders.



Philippine Marine Corps Participates In Exercise Cobra Gold 2026 Observer Program

By: Marine Corps Public Affairs Office

Major General Vicente MAP Blanco III PN(M), Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps initiated Key Leaders Engagements during the Multinational Exercise "Cobra Gold" particularly with host country Thailand through the Royal Thai Marine Corps on on February 25, 2026 to March 03, 3026. The PMC also sent a delegation to participate through the Exercise's Observer Program led by Brigadier General Wilfredo B. Manalang Jr. PN(M), Commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade, observed a series of joint military and humanitarian activities designed to enhance multinational cooperation, disaster response readiness, and coastal defense capabilities.



Key events included the Amphibious Exercise at Hat Yao, Sattahip Naval Base; the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Demonstration in Chachoengsao Province; Counter Landing Operations focusing on coastal defense; HIRAIN operations demonstrating rapid High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) deployment in Lopburi Province; and a Command Post Exercise at Red



Horse Camp Naval Base emphasizing staff planning and command and control integration.

Through this engagement, the Philippine Marine Corps gained valuable insights into joint operations and evolving doctrines while strengthening interoperability and defense cooperation with regional partners in the Indo-Pacific.







Maritime Soul, Sharper Edge:

Where the Marines Must Go in the CADC Era

By: COL CNP BASCO PN(M)(GSC)

A few years on from the argument that Marines must rediscover their maritime soul, the question has stopped being rhetorical. The water decided it for us. Grey hulls and white hulls now operate inside our exclusive economic zone with a routineness that would have been unthinkable when the first piece was written. Water cannons at Ayungin. Blocking maneuvers at Bajo de Masinloc. Militia trawlers tied four-abreast at features we still call ours. Rocket launches crossing our airspace often enough now that debris in our sovereign territory has stopped surprising anyone. Quiet swarms at Iroquois and Sabina, then loud ones at Escoda. This is the daily texture of Philippine sovereignty in the era of the Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept (CADC). The maritime soul I argued we needed to rediscover is no longer a question of identity. It is a question of prioritization. What to give up, what to keep, what to build. All of it at once, with a clock running.

The debate inside the Corps now is sharper than it used to be. One camp says the future is coastal defense and missile warfare, distributed and lethal, land-based fires that turn the first island chain into a series of no-go boxes. The other camp says the Marines were never meant to be a garrison of stationary missileers. That our trademark is sustained maneuver in the littorals, and the moment we surrender mobility we surrender what makes us Marines. Both camps are right. Both are insufficient. The honest answer, the one the CADC actually requires, is that the Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) has to do both, and integrate them, in a way no Marine corps in the region is yet doing well. This is hard. It is also within reach.

Start with the missile question, because that is the one the modernization conversation has run with hardest. Land-based anti-ship capability has done something genuinely new for smaller powers in this region. It has converted geography into deterrence at a price point a country like ours can actually afford. The professional literature on coastal missile warfare is now extensive, and the lessons are mostly cautionary. Any force that takes this work on has to absorb a body of professional knowledge that is closer to submarine warfare than to traditional ground combat - the discipline of staying alive long enough to be useful, in an environment where being seen is the same as being targeted. The Ukrainians taught the world a brutal seminar on this between 2022 and now. The Moskva went to the bottom because the crews that fired on it did the unglamorous survivability work first, and were still in the fight when the moment came. That is the lesson worth importing. The platforms matter less than the professional culture that keeps them effective.

Pair the missile question with what the literature increasingly calls a stand-in force, and the picture starts to resemble something a smaller power can actually build. Small, hard, networked elements forward in the littoral, capable of sensing and reporting, and where the situation demands it, of contributing fires. The point is to stay inside the contested space rather than retreating from it. This is not the marooned-platoon model of the past. It is a sensing and reporting node integrated into a broader joint picture, which is a hard institutional achievement long before it is a hardware question. Every resupply run to the BRP Sierra Madre is already a campaign. We may as well treat the rest of the chain that way.

Here is where the second camp gets its due, and where I'll argue the Corps should plant its flag. A force that does only coastal denial is a force that has surrendered the initiative. Denial is defensive arithmetic. It raises the cost of aggression but never reverses it. The CADC asks more of us than that. It asks who retakes the feature when the adversary lodges first. It asks who reinforces a contested feature when the weather window closes around a militia swarm. It asks who lands on the back side of a rock at night, in a sea state that grounds the helicopters, with a platoon of Marines who know the difference between a hydrographic survey line and a reef they're about to bottom out on. The amphibious skill sets we uniquely possess, ship-to-shore movement, beach reconnaissance, surf zone navigation, vertical envelopment, naval gunfire spotting, combined arms in the littoral, are the only insurance policy the Republic has against losing

what it cannot afford to lose. Walk away from them and the denial layer becomes a position waiting to be bypassed.

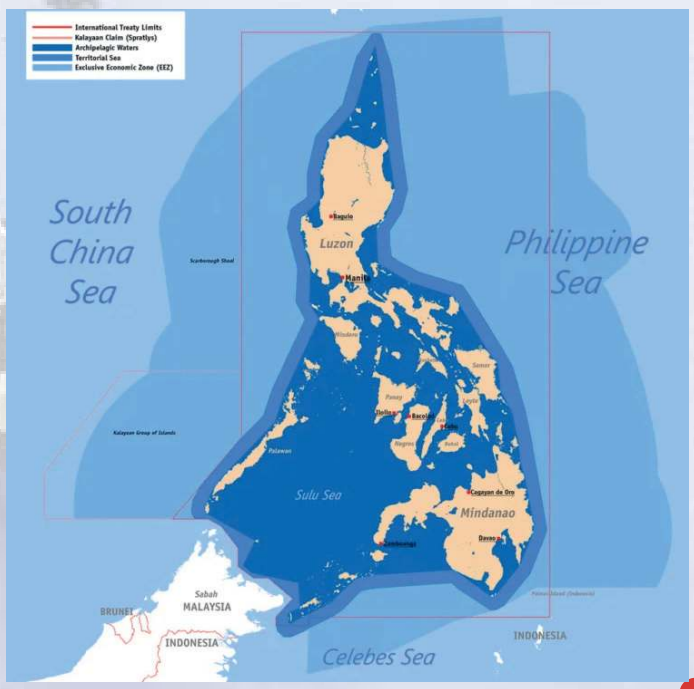
So the synthesis. A missile-capable element and an amphibious-capable element operating as two ends of the same instrument. The first imposes cost. The second restores the line when cost alone has not been enough. The platforms now entering service across the AFP — landing craft, amphibious vehicles, the Fleet's larger amphibious shipping, rotary lift, surface combatants of various weights — only become a connected system when someone insists on integrating them. The Marines have the opportunity to be that integrating echelon. This is jointness as I argued for it before. The difference now is hardware on the pier, not just rhetoric in the planning slides.

A vignette, framed as a thought experiment rather than a force lay-down. Picture a 2030 scenario, gray-zone escalation at a contested western feature. A swarm of fifty adversary militia vessels with an adversary frigate hovering at twenty miles, trying to occupy unmanned ground. A friendly missile element ranges the frigate and silently passes a firing solution up the chain. Kinetic option held, but available. A stand-in detachment on the nearest friendly-held feature reports the swarm's movement to the operational commander. An embarked amphibious force lands ahead of the swarm and establishes a defended perimeter before the adversary can complete the occupation. Knowing the missile solution is live, the adversary frigate holds. Nothing is fired. The Philippines wins the day. That is what the integrated Corps looks like in principle. Denial and maneuver working off the same plot, the missile crew and the landing force reading the same picture, the sensor and the shooter running on the same heartbeat.

The harder transformation is cultural, and this is where the maritime soul actually lives. The vignette is buildable. The platforms are arriving. None of it works without the institutional change. A Marine officer's career path still rewards too much time in the interior and too little on the water. Amphibious training should be a rite of passage, not a footnote on a service record. Every Marine rifle battalion should pass through an amphibious workup cycle on a regular interval, with live ship-to-shore serials, not tabletop simulations dressed up as training. Boat company proficiency should be measured the way infantry proficiency is, by certified gates, not by signed memoranda. Our reconnaissance forces need to recover the hydrographic and beach survey skills that make a landing succeed before anyone fires a shot. And the missile community, wherever it sits in the AFP, needs to think like infantry — guarding their own ground while their fires reach far out to sea.

The SLOCs and the maritime economic geography fall into place once this architecture exists. The country's principal chokepoints are covered by overlapping fires. The sentinel islands are held by elements that see first and shoot first. Reed Bank, Recto, Benham, the quiet erosion theaters where we have been losing ground without a shot fired, are patrolled and contested in a Fleet-Marine tandem that can stay on station longer than the trawlers can. The lawfare and the kinetic deterrent finally run on the same set of boots. The country stops choosing between defending its coastline and defending its claims. With Marines built this way, the coastline and the claims are the same problem, addressed by the same force.

None of this happens if we keep mistaking ourselves for a second land army. Every additional year spent in prolonged interior operations compounds the deficit in littoral operations, in ship-to-shore proficiency, in the institutional reflex that makes a Marine reach for a chart of the approaches before a map of the barrio. The CADC will be won or lost in the first hundred kilometers from the high-water mark, in both directions. That space belongs to the Marines, or it belongs to no one in our order of battle, which is the same as saying it belongs to whoever shows up first. The maritime soul we have been hunting is not buried in our history. It is standing on a reef in the West Philippine Sea, waiting for the rest of the Corps to come back aboard ship and meet it there — to seal off the SLOCs and land on the sentinel islands where it has been holding the line alone.



Marine Units' Birthdays
(March and April 2026)

The "KALASAG" @ 48: Guardian of the Soutwestern Frontier

By: 2nd Marine Brigade, Philippine Marine Corps

For forty-eight years, the 2nd Marine Brigade, Philippine Marine Corps has stood as the Kalasag, the living shield between peace and conflict in the country's southwestern frontier. Through decades of operational challenges, evolving security threats, and changing times, the Brigade has remained steadfast in its mission, embodying the courage, discipline, and commitment that define the Philippine Marine Corps.

As the Brigade commemorates its 48th Activation Day, it celebrates not only another year of service but also a legacy forged through sacrifice, resilience, and unwavering dedication to duty. This year's celebration embraces the vibrant spirit of a Barrio Fiesta, bringing together Marines, their families, partner agencies, and local communities in a tribute to nearly five decades of honorable service.

More than a festive occasion, the anniversary serves as a reflection of the Brigade's enduring role in safeguarding peace and security across the archipelago's southwestern frontier. From conducting combat operations and maritime security missions to supporting humanitarian assistance, disaster response, and community development programs, the 2nd Marine Brigade has consistently demonstrated its readiness to answer the nation's call.

The Brigade's journey is marked by countless stories of valor and selfless service. Generations of Marines have carried the responsibility of defending the Nation's sovereignty and protecting communities from threats that seek to undermine peace and stability. Through every mission, the Brigade has remained true to its commitment to serve the Filipino people with honor and excellence.

Today, as it approaches half a century of distinguished service, the 2nd Marine Brigade looks beyond its storied past and toward the future. Guided by its rich traditions and strengthened by the lessons of experience, the Brigade continues to modernize its capabilities, enhance operational readiness, and deepen partnerships with stakeholders in pursuit of lasting peace and development.

The celebration of the 48th Activation Day is therefore more than a commemoration of years passed. It is a tribute to the men and women who have worn the Marine uniform, a recognition of the communities that have stood alongside the Brigade, and a reaffirmation of its enduring mission.

For nearly five decades, the 2nd Marine Brigade has remained the silent sentinel of the southwestern frontier - resolute, vigilant, and ever ready. As it enters another year of service, it continues to stand as the Kalasag of the people, safeguarding peace today while helping secure a more stable and prosperous tomorrow.

Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim @ 32: The Home Of Marine Excellence

By: Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim, Philippine Marine Corps

Nestled along the rugged coastline of Ternate, Cavite, Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim stands as the Philippine Marine Corps' premier training and support installation. Situated within the historic Calumpang Military Reservation Area, MBGL occupies a strategic position overlooking the entrance to Manila Bay and the West Philippine Sea, providing an ideal environment for amphibious, jungle, and special operations training.

Originally established as Naval Station Ternate in 1994, the installation evolved through several organizational transformations before becoming Marine Barracks Gregorio Lim in 2009, honoring Marine hero Gregorio Lim. Throughout its history, MBGL has continuously expanded its facilities and capabilities, serving as a vital hub for Marine training, operational readiness, and force development.

Over the decades, MBGL has supported countless military exercises, including major Balikatan activities, while simultaneously safeguarding the military reservation area and preserving its vast training grounds. Its infrastructure steadily grew from basic barracks and firing ranges into a comprehensive military complex equipped with training schools, accommodation facilities, operational support areas, and recreational centers that sustain both Marines and their families.

Today, MBGL remains the cornerstone of Marine preparedness. Under successive generations of leadership, it continues to modernize its facilities, strengthen partnerships with local communities, and provide world-class support to tenant and transient units. More than a military installation, MBGL embodies the Philippine Marine Corps' enduring commitment to readiness, professionalism, and service to the nation.



54 Years of Service and Readiness: 1st Marine Rifle Battalion Celebrates Its Legacy As A Ready, Specialized and Reliable Force

By: 1st Marine Rifle Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps

In celebration of its 54th Activation Day, the 1st Marine Rifle Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps conducted a series of Civil-Military Operations activities from January to April 2026 in Zamboanga City, prior to its reassignment to the National Capital Region. These initiatives reflected the battalion's sustained commitment to service, operational excellence, and community engagement, further strengthening its reputation as a Ready. Specialized. Reliable. unit of the Philippine Marine Corps.

As part of the pre-activation day activities, the battalion conducted numerous outreach programs across various communities within its area of responsibility. These activities provided essential support and assistance to local residents, reinforcing the Marines' role not only as warfighters but also as dependable partners in community development and humanitarian service. Through these engagements, 1MRBn demonstrated that readiness is measured not only in combat preparedness but also in the ability to respond to the needs of the people.

Environmental protection was also given emphasis through mangrove tree planting activities conducted in selected coastal areas of Zamboanga City. This initiative contributed to coastal rehabilitation, climate resilience, and environmental awareness, highlighting the battalion's commitment to safeguarding natural resources for future generations.

In addition, the battalion actively participated in mass blood donation drives, supporting local medical facilities and contributing to life-saving efforts for patients in need. These activities underscored the spirit of volunteerism and compassion among Marine personnel and strengthened civil-military cooperation in the field of public health.

To further enhance morale, welfare, and unit cohesion, the battalion also conducted a Family Day Celebration and Battalion Sportsfest. These activities fostered camaraderie, teamwork, and physical fitness among Marines and their families, reinforcing the importance of a strong support system in maintaining operational effectiveness and resilience.

The successful execution of these activities highlighted the holistic approach of the 1st Marine Rifle Battalion in preparing its personnel and engaging with communities. Through sustained outreach, environmental stewardship, humanitarian support, and morale-building initiatives, the battalion continues to embody professionalism, discipline, and service excellence.

As it marks its 54th Activation Day and transitions to a new operational area in the National Capital Region, the 1st Marine Rifle Battalion remains steadfast in its mission. It continues to uphold its identity as a Ready. Specialized. Reliable. force, always prepared to serve, protect, and respond wherever duty calls.





Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion @ 4: The Spearhead of Philippine Coastal Defense

By: Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps

The activation of the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps on April 30, 2022 marked a historic milestone in the modernization of the Philippine Marine Corps and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. As the nation's first dedicated coastal missile defense battalion, its establishment signaled the Corps' transition into a new era of Archipelagic Coastal Defense - one that combines traditional Marine warfighting excellence with advanced precision-strike capabilities.

From its inception, the battalion focused on building a highly skilled force capable of operating sophisticated missile systems. Its personnel underwent extensive specialization courses in radar operations, fire control, electronic warfare, communications, and technical maintenance, while select officers and enlisted personnel trained in India on the BrahMos Anti-Ship Missile System - the cornerstone of the country's emerging coastal defense capability.

The Battalion steadily expanded its operational readiness through participation in major military exercises such as Kaagapay Ng Mga Mandirigma Ng Dagat (KAMANDAG), the conduct of specialized missile defense training, and the acquisition of mission-essential equipment and mobility assets. In 2023, the unit transferred to San Antonio, Zambales, positioning itself closer to its future operational requirements and strategic mission. By 2024, the battalion successfully supported the secure delivery of containerized missile systems, a significant step toward achieving full operational capability.

Today, the Shore-Based Anti-Ship Missile Battalion stands as the Philippine Marine Corps' premier missile warfare unit and a key component of the nation's deterrence strategy. As the first line of precision coastal strike capability within the Archipelagic Coastal Defense Concept, its Marine Missileers embody innovation, professionalism, and readiness - ensuring that the Philippines possesses a credible force capable of protecting its maritime territory, sovereignty, and national interests in an increasingly complex security environment.



23 Years "Matatag" Journey: Strength in Unity, Power in Purpose

By: 11th Marine Rifle Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps

Days leading up to the anniversary were filled with activities that built morale, skill, and unity: the Matatag Funshoot 2026 held on March 18–19, 2026 at Headquarter 11th Marine Rifle Battalion, the rigorous Matatag Challenge conducted on March 26–27, 2026 at Sofronio Española Area of

Operations, the culmination of the unit Sportfest, and the lively "Matatag" Party held on March 28, 2026 at Headquarters 11th Marine Rifle Battalion, events that showcased the strong brotherhood within the ranks.

On the main day, the 11th Marine Rifle Battalion "Matatag" commemorated its 23rd Activation Day at the Brooke's Point Events Center, Government Complex, Brgy. Tubtub, with the official theme: "Strength in Unity, Power in Purpose". The occasion was graced by Major General Vicente Mark Anthony P Blanco PN(M), Commandant, Philippine Marine Corps, as Guest of Honor, represented by Brigadier General Wilfredo B Manalang Jr PN(M), Commander, 3rd Marine Brigade, Philppine Marine Corps, who presided over the ceremony.

The program featured the solemn unveiling of the Barlas Marker, honoring the unit's heritage. It also recognized stakeholders and partners for their unwavering support, and highlighted outstanding personnel and newly promoted officer:

- Newly Promoted Officer: Captain Sylanie A De Guzman PN(M)
- Best Officer: 1st Lieutenant Justine O Moriles PN(M)
- Best Enlisted Personnel: Sergeant Martes A Balaso PN(M)
- "MATATAG" Challenge Champion: 11th Marine Company

In his remarks, Brigadier General Manalang emphasized the unit's remarkable growth through the years, commending its vital contributions to peace, security, and community development in Palawan. He encouraged all personnel to uphold unity and purpose as the core of their service. The celebration served as a platform to express gratitude to individuals, partner agencies, and organizations that have significantly contributed to the battalion, while honoring and motivating personnel who demonstrated exemplary performance throughout the year. It reaffirmed the unit's dedication to excellence, unit and purpose as it continues to uphold its mandate in serving the Nation and the people of Palawan.

The unit traces its roots to December 1, 1989, and was officially activated as the 11th Marine Battalion on April 1, 2003. Evolving through the years, it is now designated as the 11th Marine Rifle Battalion "Matatag", steadfast and true to its identity.

Today, under the leadership of its present Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Francis Leomarie T Conato PN(M), true to its guiding principle "Steadfast and Strong", and faithful to its solemn promise: Protectors of the People, Defenders of the State, the unit marches forward - proud of its past, ready for the future, and Matatag always.

5MRBn @ 51:

Only Our Best

Activated on April 15, 1975, 5th Marine Rifle Battalion, Philippine Marine Corps has earned a distinguished reputation as one of the Corps' most battle-tested units. Guided by its enduring motto, "Only Our Best," the battalion has spent nearly five decades serving in some of the country's most challenging operational environments, from the islands of Tawi-Tawi and Sulu to the battlefields of Mindanao.

5MRBn's history is marked by relentless combat operations against insurgent, terrorist, and lawless armed groups. The battalion participated in major campaigns against the Moro National Liberation Front, Abu Sayyaf Group, and other threat groups while also performing law enforcement support, election security, anti-smuggling operations, and humanitarian assistance missions. Throughout its deployments, the unit consistently demonstrated operational excellence and adaptability in both conventional and unconventional missions

Among its most defining moments was its participation in the liberation of Marawi City in 2017. Marines of 5MRBn displayed extraordinary courage in urban combat, producing heroes such as Medal for Valor awardee Private First Class Gener C Tinangag PN(M), whose selfless sacrifice became a symbol of Marine bravery and devotion to duty.

Today, 5MRBn continues to safeguard communities across its area of operations while strengthening partnerships with local stakeholders through civic and humanitarian initiatives. From combat victories to disaster response and community outreach, 5MRBn remains true to its legacy, delivering only its best in service of the Filipino people and the Republic.

A Race Against Time: The Laverton Rescue

By: 2LT ROMEO M TURINGAN PN(M)



A Morning That Turned Into a Battle for Life

At 7:26 a.m., the routine at Block 219 of the Defence International Training Centre (DITC) in Laverton was shattered by a desperate cry for help. A Laotian student had collapsed inside a locked toilet cubicle after suffering an electric shock. Panic spread quickly as classmates tried to force the door open, fearing the victim's head was pinned beneath it.

Recognizing the danger of worsening the injury, the Duty Seconded Officer, Major Bobby F Gabayno PN(M), ordered them to stop. Calm under pressure, he assessed the situation: every second mattered, yet every wrong move could cost a life.

Breaking Barriers

Attempts to enter through the window failed. With no time to lose, Major Gabayno tore through the mesh and crawled inside. He found the student unresponsive and not breathing. Carrying him outside, he immediately began resuscitation efforts.

At 7:40 AM, realizing no emergency call had yet been made, he dialed Australia's emergency hotline, "000," then sprinted to retrieve the first aid kit and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). While briefing the operator, he continued rescue breaths. After several tense minutes, faint signs of life returned. Relief swept through the crowd, but the fight was not yet over.

Handing Over to the Professionals

When emergency responders arrived, Major Gabayno relayed every detail to ensure continuity of care. The student was stabilized and placed in professional hands. What began as a terrifying ordeal ended with a fragile but vital victory: a life reclaimed from the brink.

Filipino Marine Officer Earns International Recognition

For his decisive actions, Major Gabayno received a Commanding Officer's Commendation in Australia. Serving as the Philippine Seconded Officer at DITC from November 2023 to November 2025, he consistency demonstrated professionalism, leadership and dedication. His conduct during the Laveston Rescue epitomized the values of the Philippine Marine Corps.

Pride of the Corps and the Nation

The recognition bestowed upon Major Gabayno is not only a personal honor but also a reflection of the world-class standards of the Philippine Marine Corps. His actions reaffirm the Corps' tradition of Honor, Duty, and Valor, proving that Philippine Marines uphold their legacy wherever they serve.

JOIN the PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

MARINE OFFICER CANDIDATE

At least 21 years old but not more than 26 years old on the date of application

Must be a Filipino citizen and of good moral character

Single, never been Married

Graduate of any 4-year Baccalaureate Degree

At least 5'0" (154.4cm)

Must have no tattoo

Initial Requirements

PSA Birth Certificate
College Diploma
Transcript of Records
2x2 Picture (White Background)

MARINE BASIC COURSE

At least 18 years old but not more than 24 years old on the date of application

Must be a Filipino citizen and of good moral character

Single, never been Married

Completed the K-12 Curriculum preferebly with NCII certificate

At least 5'0" (154.4cm)

Must have no tattoo

Initial Requirements

PSA Birth Certificate
K-12 Diploma / NCII Certificate
Transcript of Records
2x2 Picture (White Background)

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