HISTORY OF THE AFP


THE COVERAGE OF PRESENTATION ARE THE FOLLOWING:

➢ EARLY ARMED FORCES
➢ THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION
➢ THE PHIL-AMERICAN WAR
➢ AMERICAN COLONIAL FORCES IN THE PHILS
➢ THE AFP IN WORLD WAR II
➢ EXTERNAL DEFENSE AND MILITARY ALLIANCES
➢ THE AFP IN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING
➢ THE AFP DURING THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME
➢ THE AFP TODAY

EARLY ARMED FORCES

PRE-COLONIAL PERIOD
IN PRE-COLONIAL TIMES, IT WAS NOT ALWAYS WITH THE
MATTER OF ATTENDING TO THE DEMANDS OF ORDINARY LIVING
THAT THE FILIPINOS PRE-OCCUPIED THEMSELVES. SOMETIMES,
FIGHTING BETWEEN BARANGAYS WOULD BREAK OUT; AT OTHER
TIMES, SOME WOULD FORGE AN ALLIANCE IN DEFENSE AGAINST,
OR TO INVADE A COMMON FOE.

WEAPONS WERE VARIED, BUT MOST WERE BLADED AND HAND-
HELD. THERE WERE KRISSES, KAMPILANS, BALADAWS, BLOWGUNS,
BOWS AND ARROWS AND AN EARLY FORM OF ARTILLERY, THE
LANTAKA.

ASIDE FROM LAND-BASED WEAPONS, THE EARLY FILIPINOS,
HAD SEA VESSELS FOR COMBAT: PARAOS AND VINTAS IN
MINDANAO AND BAROTOS IN THE VISAYAS.

IN ADDITION TO THE WEAPONS OF WAR, THERE WERE
DEFENSE FORTIFICATIONS SUCH AS THE COTTAS AND MOOGS.

THE VARIETY OF WEAPONS AND THE PROCESS OF PREPARING
FOR BATTLE ITSELF, INDICATE THAT FIGHTING WAS CONSIDERED
AN IMPORTANT, IF NOT, AN HONORABLE PROFESSION.

RESISTANCE IN LUZON AND THE VISAYAS

THE ARRIVAL OF THE SPANIARDS IN THE 16TH CENTURY PUT
EARLY FILIPINO ARMED FORCES TO A TEST. THE DEFIANCE OF
LAPULAPU TO RENDER LOYALTY TO MAGELLAN LED TO THE BATTLE
OF MACTAN ON 27 MARCH 1521. THE LONG LIST OF REVOLTS AND
UPRISINGS DURING THE MORE THAN 300 YEARS OF SPANISH RULE
INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, THE CONSPIRACY OF THE MAHARLIKAS,
THE REBELLION OF TAMBLOT, THE ARMED VIOLENCE IN TAYABAS BY APOLINARIO DELA CRUZ, REVOLTS LED BY MAGALAT IN CAGAYAN, SUMODOY IN SAMAR AND DIEGO SILANG IN ILOCOS SUR. WHEN DIEGO SILANG WAS ASSASSINATED, HIS WIDOW, GABRIELA, PICKED UP FROM WHERE HER HUSBAND LEFT OFF TO BECOME THE FIRST WOMAN REBEL LEADER IN THE PHILIPPINES.

RESISTANCE IN MINDANAO AND SULU

UNLIKE THEIR BROTHERS IN THE NORTH, THE MUSLIM FILIPINOS WERE NEVER CONQUERED OR COLONIZED BY THE SPANIARDS. THEY WERE – AND STILL ARE – FIERCE AND BRAVE FIGHTERS. IN 1630, A DETERMINED SPANISH MILITARY ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER MINDANAO USED FILIPINOS FROM LUZON AND THE VISAYAS. CHRISTIAN FILIPINOS WERE THEREFORE PITTED AGAINST MUSLIM FILIPINOS AND WHAT DEVELOPED WAS MISTRUST BETWEEN THEM THAT IS STILL FELT TODAY.

THE SPANISH COLONIAL ARMED FORCES

INFANTRY, CAVALRY AND ENGINEER UNITS EMPLOYED FILIPINOS, THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES MADE SURE THAT THE ARTILLERIES WERE MANNED ENTIRELY BY SPANIARDS.

THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION

1st PHASE: THE KATIPUNAN


THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION

THE KATIPUNAN WAS FINALLY DISCOVERED ON 19 AUG 1896. WHAT FOLLOWED WERE THE ARREST, INCARCERATION, TORTURE
AND EXECUTION OF HUNDREDS OF FILIPINOS. WITH ITS DISCOVERY, BONIFACIO IMMEDIATELY TOOK STEPS TO PLACE THE KATIPUNAN ON A WAR FOOTING BY MOBILIZING THE MEMBERS AND ORGANIZING THE MEN INTO MILITARY UNITS. UPRISINGS SOON BEGAN SWEEPING CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON WHILE MUTINIES AND SIMILAR INSURGENT ACTIVITIES BEGAN ERUPTING IN PANAY, ILIGAN AND JOLO.

**AGUINALDO’S ASSUMPTION OF THE REVOLUTION’S LEADERSHIP**


IN RETURN, THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES WOULD PAY THE REVOLUTIONARIES AND IMPLEMENT REFORMS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF THE FILIPINOS.

2nd PHASE: THE FIRST PHIL REPUBLIC AND ITS ARMED FORCES


ORGANIZING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES


IN SUPPORT OF THE STANDING ARMY WERE THE TERRITORIAL
MILITIAS AND THE SANDATAHAN. MOST MEMBERS OF BOTH FORCES WERE ACTUALLY LOCAL TOWN RESIDENTS AND WERE PRIMARILY ARMED WITH BOLOS AND HELD AS RESERVES.

ORGANIZING THE NAVY


IN JULY 1898, A SHIP NAMED COMPANIA DE FILIPINAS WAS BROUGHT TO THE SIDE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT BY ITS FILIPINO OFFICERS AND MEN WHO MUTINIED. IT BECAME THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE PHILIPPINE NAVY AT THAT TIME AND WAS MADE A FLAGSHIP.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “ACADEMIA MILITAR”

AFTER THE CREATION OF THE ARMY, AN ACADEMIA MILITAR WAS ESTABLISHED IN MALOLOS, BULACAN ON 25 OCT 1898. ITS MISSION WAS TO COMPLETE THE TRAINING OF ALL OFFICERS IN THE ACTIVE SERVICE “IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY WILL DISCHARGE THEIR DUTIES IN PEACE WITH THE BRILLIANCE WHICH THEY HAVE DISPLAYED IN WAR”. THE ACADEMY FORMALLY
OPENED ITS CLASSES ON 01 NOV 1898. HOWEVER, THE ACADEMY WAS DEACTIVATED ON 20 JANUARY 1899 IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE FILIPINOS AND THE AMERICANS.

THE PHILIPPINE – AMERICAN WAR

OUTBREAK OF WAR: THE SAN JUAN BRIDGE INCIDENT

TENSION BETWEEN THE FILIPINO AND AMERICANS ERUPTED INTO A FULL-SCALE WAR WHEN A FILIPINO SOLDIER WAS SHOT DEAD BY AN AMERICAN TROOPER AT THE SAN JUAN BRIDGE ON 4 FEB 1899. AGUINALDO IMMEDIATELY RESPONDED TO THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE BY DECLARING WAR THE FOLLOWING DAY. HE THEN APPOINTED GEN ANTONIO LUNA AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ALL FILIPINO FORCES. THE PHILIPPINE ARMY INITIALLY FOUGHT A CONVENTIONAL WAR BUT SHIFTED TO GUERILLA WARFARE IN MID-NOVEMBER 1899.

MEANWHILE, AGUINALDO, WHO WAS TRYING TO ELUDE THE AMERICANS, FINALLY SETTLED AT PALANAN, ISABELA. HOWEVER, THE AMERICANS DISCOVERED HIS WHEREABOUTS AND ON 23 MARCH 1901, HE WAS ARRESTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT TO MANILA. ON 19 APRIL 1901, HE ISSUED A PROCLAMATION ASKING THE FILIPINO PEOPLE TO ACCEPT AMERICAN SOVEREIGN RULE.

AMERICAN COLONIAL FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES

THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS

THE FIRST FILIPINO MILITARY CONTINGENT CREATED BY

THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY


ALL OFFICERS RECEIVED SOME TRAINING IN A SPECIAL SCHOOL LOCATED AT THE CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS. IN 1908, THE SCHOOL WAS NAMED “PHIL CONSTABULARY SCHOOL” AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE CONSTABULARY HILL IN BAGUIO. IN 1914, IT BECAME THE “PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY ACADEMY” BUT WAS REDESIGNATED AS THE “ACADEMY FOR THE OFFICERS OF THE PHIL CONSTABULARY” IN 1916.

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GUARD

THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR I IN EUROPE IN 1914 LED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GUARD ON 17 MARCH 1917. IDEALLY, IT WAS TO CONSIST OF A GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, THREE BRIGADES OF THREE INFANTRY REGIMENTS EACH, ONE CAVALRY SQUADRON, ONE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT AND FOUR COAST ARTILLERY COMPANIES. THE GENERAL
HEADQUARTERS WAS COMPOSED OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL’S DEPT, INSPECTOR GENERAL’S DEPT, JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S DEPT, QUARTERMASTER CORPS, MEDICAL DEPT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ORDNANCE SERVICE, AND SIGNAL CORPS – ALL EXACTLY PATTERNED AFTER THE U.S. ARMY.

**THE AVIATION UNIT OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GUARD**

REALIZING THE ROLE OF AIRCRAFT IN THE WAR IN EUROPE, THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PHIL NATIONAL GUARD WAS REVISED IN FEB 1918 BY INCORPORATING AN AVIATION UNIT COMPOSED OF TWO SQUADRONS. AVIATION CADETS WERE RECRUITED AND WERE SENT ON GROUND SCHOOLING BUT BY THE TIME THEY WERE READY FOR FLIGHT TRAINING IN THE U.S., ALL TRAINING PLANES WERE ALREADY COMMITTED TO THE WAR IN EUROPE.

THE GUARD’S AVIATION UNIT WAS REVIVED IN LATE 1919 AND WAS RENAMED “PHILIPPINE AIR SERVICE” IN JAN 1920. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS ABOLISHED ON 19 DEC 1921 FOR LACK OF FUNDS TO SUSTAIN THE TRAINING.

**THE AFP IN WORLD WAR II**

**WAR PLAN ORANGE**

WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN BEGAN DETERIORATING IN 1907, THE AMERICANS DEVELOPED “WAR PLAN ORANGE” WHICH CALLS FOR THE DEFENSE OF MANILA BAY THROUGH FORTIFICATIONS ON CORREGIDOR AND THE ISLANDS OF CARABAO, EL FRAILE AND CABALLO. ARMY FORCES WOULD THEN
CONCENTRATE ON THE HARBOR FORTS AND THE NEARBY BATAAN PENINSULA, HOLDING OUT UNTIL RELIEVED BY REINFORCEMENTS FROM HAWAII OR THE U.S. MAINLAND.

**THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DEFENSE PLAN**

As “War Plan Orange” was being finalized, another Phil defense plan was being developed in Washington under the direction of Gen MacArthur. His plan called for a gradual build-up of strength. Every populated island was to be defended. Registration and training of every 20-year-old Filipino male would be obligatory. Preliminary military training was to be done in schools.

The key concept of the defense plan was denial of any part of the Philippines to any possible foreign intruder. This meant defense at the beaches, by infantry, supported by machine guns and artillery. To provide early warning and to break-up landing forces, an air corps composed of fast fighter bombers, and an off-shore patrol, composed of torpedo boats would be established.

**ORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE ARMY**

Pres Quezon signed the National Defense Act on 20 Dec 1935. Embodied in the provisions of this act was the creation of the Phil Army from the nucleus of the Phil Constabulary. Quezon then appointed retired PC Col Jose de los Reyes as acting chief of staff of the Phil Army and conferred the rank of brigadier general. With the
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHIL ARMY HIGH COMMAND, THE PHIL CONSTABULARY BECAME JUST ONE OF THE DIVISIONS OF THE ARMY.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ON 18 JAN 1936, THE 1st REGULAR DIVISION, PA WAS ACTIVATED BY COMBINING THE 7th PC REGIMENT, HEADQUARTERS TROOPS AND GENERAL SERVICE TROOPS. THE 1st COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT WAS ALSO CREATED AND WAS BASED AT FORT WINT AT THE MOUTH OF SUBIC BAY. OTHER UNITS THAT WERE CREATED IN 1936 UNDER THE PHIL ARMY WERE THE OFFSHORE PATROL AND THE PHIL ARMY AIR CORPS.

SEPARATING THE PC FROM THE ARMY


ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

ON 1 NOV 1939, QUEZON OFFICIALLY CREATED THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AS PER COMMONWEALTH ACT NUMBER 430. TEOFILO SISON WAS NAMED AS THE FIRST
SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

THE ARMED FORCES IN 1940

The air corps continued to gradually grow. In Mar 1940, it acquired two old and obsolete pursuit planes, the P-12E. Additionally, the air corps graduated from the training phase to the operational phase when it organized its first combat squadron in April 1940.

On the other hand, the offshore patrol had less success. Five boats that were ordered from England were not delivered as the boats were called into service for the war in Europe.

Meanwhile, war plan orange was revised on 1 April 1941. The plan included the use of Phil army units in the U.S. defense plan. The primary mission of the U.S. forces was to prevent enemy landings. Should they fail to do this, the defense forces were to defeat the landed enemies. Should they still fail, they were to hold the entrance to Manila Bay.

CALL TO ARMS

On 26 July 1941, Pres Roosevelt ordered the induction of all organized military force of the Phil Commonwealth into the service of the U.S. MacArthur was recalled to active duty and placed in command of a new force, the U.S. Army forces in the Far East (USAFFE).

On 15 Aug 1941, the Phil Army Air Corps was inducted
INTO THE SERVICE OF THE U.S. IN SIMPLE CEREMONIES AT ZABLAN FILED. MACARTHUR, IN HIS SPEECH, SAID “IF WAR COMES . . . I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL WRITE YOUR OWN HISTORY, AND WRITE IT IN RED, ON YOUR ENEMY’S BREAST. FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL MEN HAVE DIED THAT THEIR NATION MIGHT LIVE AND ONLY THOSE ARE FIT TO LIVE WHO ARE NOT AFRAID TO DIE”.

**THE JAPANESE INVASION**

THE PHILIPPINES HAD FIGURED IN JAPANESE MILITARY PLANNING SINCE THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 20th CENTURY. THEIR WAR PLAN INVOLVED AIR STRIKES AT THE U.S. BOMBER FORCE AT CLARK FIELD AND THE FIGHTER BASE AT IBA, ZAMBALES. THEY WOULD THEN STRIKE THE NAVAL BASE AT CAVITE TO NEUTRALIZE THE NAVAL FORCES AND SEIZE CRUCIAL AIRFIELDS IN BATANES, APARRI, VIGAN AND LEGASPI. ONCE THEY ALREADY HAVE CONTROL OF THE AIR, MAIN LANDINGS WILL THEN TAKE PLACE AT LINGAYEN GULF AND IN THE TAYABAS COAST. THE LANDING FORCE WILL THEN ADVANCE TOWARDS MANILA TAKING OVER TOWNS AS THEY ENTER THEM. SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE OPERATIONS IN LUZON, DAVAO AND JOLO WERE TO BE INVADED AND TAKEN TO PROVIDE ADVANCE BASES FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST INDONESIA. THE INVASION OF THE PHILIPPINES WAS TO BE COMPLETED IN 50 DAYS. THE JAPANESE PLAN, HOWEVER, MADE NO PROVISION FOR A POSSIBLY PROLONGED PHIL-AMERICAN DEFENSE OF BATAAN.

**WPO-3 IN EFFECT**
THE JAPANESE WAR PLAN WENT AHEAD WITHOUT MUCH RESISTANCE. MACARTHUR HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO GIVE UP HIS BEACH DEFENSE STRATEGY AND TURN TO WAR PLAN ORANGE. THE BATTLE OF BATAAN STARTED ON THE FIRST WEEK OF JAN 1942 AND LASTED UNTIL APRIL 9. CORREGIDOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, SURRENDERED ON 6 MAY. THE REMNANTS WHO DID NOT SURRENDER TO THE JAPANESE REGROUPED AND FOUGHT A LONG GUERILLA WARFARE UNTIL THE LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES.

**LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES**


**PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE**

THE RETURN OF PRES SERGIO OSMENA TO THE PHILS IN OCT 1944 MARKED THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE PHILS ON PHIL SOIL. ON 23 OCT, OSMENA OFFICIALLY ORDERED THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHIL ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT TACLOBAN, LEYTE. WHEN MANILA WAS LIBERATED IN MARCH 1945, HEADQUARTERS PHIL ARMY WAS RELOCATED TO THE CAPITAL CITY. DESERVING GUERILLA UNITS WERE GIVEN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AND WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE ARMY.

THE MILITARY POLICE COMMAND

PRES OSMENA CREATED THE MILITARY POLICE COMMAND ON 7 JUNE 1945 TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER, ENFORCE MILITARY ORDERS AND REGULATIONS OF THE PHIL ARMY, AND ASSIST THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN ENFORCING CIVIL LAW. IT WAS ALSO TASKED TO SUPERVISE LOCAL POLICE FORCE AND ASSIST IN THEIR REORGANIZATION.

THE NAVAL AND AIR FORCES WERE ALSO RECONSTITUTED. THE PHIL ARMY AIR CORP BEGAN TO FUNCTION IN MAY 1945. THE OFFSHORE PATROL WAS REACTIVATED ON 1 OCT 1945. NO ACTUAL SHIPS WERE IN THE OSP INVENTORY AT THAT TIME, BUT OFFICERS AND MEN WERE TRAINED ABOARD U.S. NAVY VESSELS WHICH WERE SLATED FOR EVENTUAL TURNOVER TO THE PHILS.

EXTERNAL DEFENSE & MILITARY ALLIANCES


ON 30 AUG 1951, THE PHILS AND THE U.S. AGAIN SIGNED AN AGREEMENT KNOWN AS THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WHICH STIPULATED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD MEET AN ARMED ATTACK IN THE PACIFIC AREA OF EITHER COUNTRY.


ORGANIZATION & EXPANSION OF THE AFP

THE PHIL GROUND FORCE, THE PHIL ARMY AIR CORPS BECAME THE PHIL AIR FORCE WHILE THE OFFSHORE PATROL WAS RENAMED PHIL NAVAL PATROL.

**OTHER CHANGES IN THE 50s**


Pursuant to this order, the Phil Ground Force became the Phil Army, the Phil Naval Patrol was renamed Phil Navy while the Phil Air Force retained its name.

There was one hitch, however, in the AFP’s organizational framework. Headquarters, Phil Army had served concurrently as GHQ, AFP thus creating various problems. On 1 July 1957, the designation of General Headquarters, AFP concurrently as Headquarters Phil Army was nullified. The creation of HQS Phil Army led to a more equitable treatment of all major services.

**THE AFP IN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING**

Amidst its defense and development preoccupations in the country, the AFP served abroad on several occasions in fulfillment of the Philippines’ international and humanitarian obligations. On 15 Sept 1950, the AFP sent the first Phil Expeditionary Force to Korea to assist the United Nations in fighting Communist aggression. The
AFP likewise sent a Philippine Air Force peacekeeping contingent to Congo in the early 60s, the Philippine Civic Action Group to the former South Vietnam in the late 60s, a Mercy Mission to Indonesia also during the late 60s, a Philippine United Nations Guard contingent to Iraq in 1991, and a contingent force to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia in 1992. The latest is the deployment of the Philippine Battalion to the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor in late 1999 to support the multi-national force tasked to bring order in that troubled island.

THE AFP DURING THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME

PHILIPPINE ARMY

With the declaration of martial law, the army came up with the “Kamagong concept” where they employed trainees who were most readily available and fit for combat duty. Mechanized infantry battalions and an army aviation battalion were also created. The special warfare brigade was activated on 16 Jan 1978 to plan for and conduct special warfare-type operations. On 6 Aug 1976, the Phil Army Light Armored Regiment (PALAR) was established to provide armor support or maneuver elements to the infantry battalions or brigades.

PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY

Just as the army underwent several organizational
AND MISSION CHANGES, SO DID THE PHIL CONSTABULARY. THE PC WAS MERGED WITH THE NEWLY CREATED INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED ON 8 AUG 1975. THE 4 PC ZONES WERE ABOLISHED AND PC/INP REGIONAL COMMANDS WERE ESTABLISHED.

END OF MARCOS REGIME


THE EFFORTS OF PRES MARCOS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA, THE U.S.S.R. AND THE EAST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, AND LOCATING MARKETS FOR PHIL PRODUCTS OTHER THAN IN THE U.S. WAS NOT ENTIRELY PLEASING TO THE AMERICANS. SUCH DISPLEASURE MIGHT HAVE LED THE AMERICANS TO LOSE FAITH IN HIM AND LOOK FOR A REPLACEMENT WHO IS MORE ACCOMMODATING TO U.S. INTERESTS. THE EVENTUAL OVERTHROW OF MARCOS & THE SUBSEQUENT ASCENDANCY OF CORAZON AQUINO TO THE PRESIDENCY WAS BELIEVED TO BE A U.S. HANDIWORK.
THE AFP TODAY

On 20 December 1990, Pres Aquino signed a law separating the Philippine Constabulary from the AFP. On 2 Jan 1991, the Phil Constabulary was formally dissolved through Republic Act 6975. Its members became the nucleus of the Philippine National Police which is now under the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

AFP MISSION AND FUNCTIONS

As mandated by our constitution, the mission of our armed forces is to protect the people, secure the sovereignty of the state and the integrity of the national territory. In the pursuit of this mission, the armed forces performs the following:

- Uphold the sovereignty, support the constitution, and defend the territory of the Republic of the Philippines against all enemies (foreign and domestic);

- Promote and advance the national aims, goals, interests and policies;

- Plans, organize, maintain, develop and deploy its regular and citizen reserve forces for national security.

- Assist and support the national government in its
TASK OF NATION BUILDING;

➢ PERFORM OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW OR
ASSIGNED BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES.

IN THE EXECUTION OF ITS FUNCTIONS, THE ARMED FORCES
FOLLOWS A CHAIN OF COMMAND, HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WHO EXERCISES
STRATEGIC DIRECTION THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL
DEFENSE, WHO IN TURN, HAS EXECUTIVE SUPERVISION OVER THE
ARMED FORCES. THE CHIEF OF STAFF EXECUTES THE POLICIES
AND GUIDANCE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND, THUS
VIRTUALLY COMMANDS THE ARMED FORCES.

TO EFFECTIVELY PERFORM ITS MISSION, THE ARMED FORCES
RELIRES ON THE THREE (3) MAJOR SERVICES TO PROVIDE THE
NECESSARY FORCES AND ASSETS FOR THE CONDUCT OF GROUND,
NAVAL AND AIR OPERATIONS. FOR ITS INTERNAL SECURITY
RESPONSIBILITIES, THE ARMED FORCES CURRENTLY MAINTAINS
FOUR (5) AREA COMMANDS TO COMMAND AND CONTROL JOINT
OPERATIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.
SUPPORTING ALL THESE COMMANDS ARE THE AFP-WIDE SUPPORT
AND SEPARATE UNITS (AFPWSSUs).

AT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, AFP THE CHIEF OF STAFF IS
ASSISTED BY THE VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF
STAFF, THE COORDINATING, SPECIAL AND PERSONAL STAFFS.
TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MAJOR SERVICES WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IS THE GROUND DEFENSE FORCE OF OUR ARMED FORCES. IT IS TASKED TO CONDUCT PROMPT AND SUSTAINED GROUND OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE AFP MISSION.

THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AIR DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY. IT IS TASKED TO CONDUCT PROMPT AND SUSTAINED AIR OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE AFP MISSION.

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NAVAL DEFENSE OF OUR ARCHIPELAGO. IT IS TASKED TO CONDUCT PROMPT AND SUSTAINED NAVAL OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE AFP MISSION.

THE NEW ROLE OF THE AFP

MANY INTERNAL REFORMS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE AND, AS A RESULT, THERE IS NOW EMERGING A NEW BREED OF MORE COMPETENT, AND MORE SELF-RELIANT CORPS OF MEN AND WOMEN READY TO FACE AND CONQUER THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE.

THIS THEN IS THE STORY OF THE FILIPINO ARMED FORCES.

THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 8th U.S. ARMY, GENERAL JAMES VAN FLEET, ONCE SAID “MANY FOREIGN ARMIES HAVE PROVEN THEIR WORTH HERE IN KOREA, AND THE FILIPINOS ARE AMONG THE BRAVEST”.

THAT ENDS MY BRIEFING. GOOD DAY!