

THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS

The Organization of the Philippine Marine Corps was conceived in 1950 by the late PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY when he was the Secretary of the National Defense. He envisioned a Marine force that is light, hard hitting, highly mobile, and composed of disciplined and dedicated officers and men who are capable to aggressively and persistently pursue sea-going smugglers, pirates and other lawless elements engaged on nefarious activities all over the archipelago.

The Philippine Marine Corps has always to measure up to the standard or professional excellence set by President Magsaysay. In its almost five decades of dedicated service to our country but has also served as effective and indispensable tool of the government for nation building.

A. ACTIVATION OF “A” COMPANY

The authority that provided for the formal creation of the Philippine Marine Corps was AFP General Order No. 319 dated 02 November 1950. Pursuant to this order, “A” company of the authorized Marine Battalion was activated on 02 November 1950 at Cavite Naval Base, Cavite City. The company consisted of 6 volunteer officers and 8 NCOs from the Philippine Navy, as well as 230 new civilian recruits. Most of the original officers and NCOs who served as drill instructor in the fledgling Marine Corps were veterans of World War II and were former members of the famed Philippine Scouts.

LIEUTENANT MANUEL A GOMEZ, an outstanding member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1941 served as the first Commanding Officer of the Marine “A” Company. Lt. GOMEZ in his speech during the oath-taking ceremony of the first batch of Marine recruits prophesied the future role of the Marine Corps in the Armed Forces of the Philippines:

“ The task of turning these young men into Marines rests upon us. Today as we start the training of these 230 volunteers, we will be striking the first hammer blow in forging the Cutting Edge of the Armed Forces “

THE PHILLIPINE MARINE CORPS TODAY

Through the years, the Philippine Marine Corps has remained as the Nations true force-in-readiness. Today, the corps consists of Headquarters and Headquarters Service Group, Combat Support Group, Marine Training Center, 3 Marine Brigade Headquarters with 10 Marine Battalions under their operational control. To meet the growing combat support requirements of the unit, the Combat Support Group has absorbed the Amphibian Vehicle and Truck Company and 3 howitzer batteries paced under the operational control of the 3 Marine Brigades deployed in operational areas. The Corps also activated the inshore Boat Company and upgraded the Reconnaissance Company into a Force Reconnaissance Battalion. In 1990, the Marine Guard Battalion was activated to perform security duties at the Senate and the House of Representatives.

For its reserve component, the Corps in 1996 activated the 4th Marine Brigade (reserve), the 202nd and 602nd Marine Reserve Battalions and Marine Mobile Medical and Surgical Company, manned by Marine Reservist all over the country.

At present, about 87 percent of the total strength of the officers and men of the Philippine Marine Corps are deployed in Luzon, Mindanao, Sulu and the Palawan regions. These Marines are actively participating in the government’s effort to maintain National Security and to assist the local governments in these areas in promoting national development.

Today as the Philippine Marine Corps forges its almost five decades of service to our country and people its officers and men have constantly time-honored motto of KARANGALAN, KATUNGKULAN AND KABAYANIHAN. Marines in every assignment have always strived to live up to the renowned standard of excellence of the Corps and have proven their effectiveness in any mission they are tasked to perform. As always, they consistently carry out their duties and responsibilities faithfully to the best of their abilities and efforts carving into the Corps’ history, the Marine Traditions of excellence, heroism, loyalty and the highest standard of professionalism.

In recognition to the Organizations fidelity to its mission, the Philippine Marine Corps today proudly flies in its standard the following: 5 Presidential Unit Citation Streamers: an AFP Chief of Staff Streamer: The Anti-Dissidence Campaign, Luzon Campaign, Jolo Campaign, Mindanao-Sulo Campaign, Visayas Campaign Streamer; COMELEC Citation Streamer; and the Disaster, Relief and Rehabilitation Operation Streamer.