

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY

Learning Outcomes:

After the class discussion, the students are expected to:

- Enumerate the mission and role of the Modern Philippine Navy
- Develop an appreciation on the short history of the Philippine Navy during its infancy stage

Four-fold Mission:

1. National Defense
2. Security Operations
3. Deterrence
4. National Development



The Navy's Roles

The modern Navy has expanded its roles beyond the initial mandate to protect the country's shores. These roles include:

1. The Navy shall defend the territory from external aggression.
2. The Navy shall continue its role of securing the Philippine maritime areas from all forms of intrusions and encroachment, piracy and drug trafficking.
3. The Navy shall assist other government agencies in protecting our marine resources and environment.
4. The Navy shall continue to assist in the conduct of rescue and relief operations not only during accidents

at sea but even during natural calamities in land such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and floods.

5. The Navy shall continue assisting in national socio-economic development.
6. The Navy, as it acquires new and more potent assets, will be an effective instrument of government in fulfilling various security-related international commitments.

History



The Philippines had long been a seafaring nation. Early Filipino inhabitants came from across the seas - from Ancient China, Borneo and Malay Peninsula. For centuries, seafaring natives living along the coastal areas of the country have sailed across

the uncharted waters of the surrounding seas in their frail little boats. The Filipino seafarers engaged in a very active trade and made regular voyages to neighboring countries in Southeast Asia and the Far East. During the Spanish regime, Filipino sailors have also been utilized by the Spaniards on their local expeditions and fights against their enemies.

As an island archipelago, the early Filipinos had realized that the Philippines is a maritime country. Its development and progress depended primarily on the sea and the sustaining trade and commerce not only with other countries but also with neighboring islands. The Filipino

nationalist fighting against Spanish domination were fully aware of this as they underscored it as vital factor in their struggle for independence. The destruction of the Spanish Navy became a major component of their revolutionary undertaking.

The Philippine Revolutionary Navy of 1898

The history of the Philippine Navy traces its early beginnings during the later part of the Philippine Revolution in 1898. General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the revolution, organized the Navy in June 23, 1898 as he proclaimed a Philippine revolutionary government. Captain Pascual Ledesma, a merchant marine ship captain, was appointed as the Director of the Navy assisted by another merchant, marine ship captain, Captain Angel Pabie. The Navy was placed under the Department of War headed by General Mariano Trias responsible for naval operations in support of the land forces and the merchant marine.

The Revolutionary Navy was initially composed of a small fleet of eight Spanish steam launches captured from the Spaniards. Their rich owners - Leon Apacible, Manuel Lopez and Gliceria Marella de Villavicencio, later donated five other vessels of greater tonnage, the TAALENO, BALAYAN, BULUSAN, TAAL and the PURISIMA CONCEPCION. The 900-ton inter-island steamer further reinforced the fleet, Compania de Filipinas (renamed Filipinas), steam launches purchased from China and other watercraft donated by wealthy patriots. Naval stations were later established in the ports of Aparri, Legaspi, Balayan, Calapan and San Roque, Cavite that served as ships' home bases.

The Navy of General Aguinaldo's revolutionary government bore the brunt of assisting ground operations and transporting Filipino troops and war materials to the different islands of the archipelago in support of the revolutionary cause.

When the revolution spread throughout southern, central and northern Luzon, TALENO and DON FRANCISCO were the first naval boats used in the campaign. These boats led the first offensive along the Batangas line that contributed to the surrender of the Spaniards in Batangas. In one of its support operations, the naval ship, FILIPINAS, almost figured in an encounter with the German cruiser, Irene, which tried to protect the Spanish garrison in Subic. Successive victories of the revolutionaries in the North led further campaigns towards the south. Using Torrijos, Marinduque as a staging area for amphibious operations, the marines and reconnaissance divers trained by General Ananias Diokno were sent to liberate Bicol and the Visayas.

The Off Shore Patrol



During the Philippine Commonwealth under President Manuel L. Quezon, the Filipino Navy existed as adjunct to the United States Armed Forces. Filipinos served the US military service. With the creation of a separate Philippine armed force, a naval organization was formed as a seagoing arm of the Philippine Army. On 09 February 1939, the Off Shore Patrol (OSP) was organized with headquarters located at Muelle Del Codo, Port

Area, and Manila. It was headed by 1LT JOSE V ANDRADA, a graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Initially, the OSP was assigned with three US Navy Motor Torpedo Boats and christened as follows:

1. Luzon (Q-111) 83-footer
2. Abra (Q-112) - 65-footer
3. Agusan (Q-113) - 65-footer

On 09 January 1941, the OSP Training School was organized with CAPT MARCELO S CASTELO OSP PA as its first Commandant. It offered courses in torpedoes, depth charges, communications, seamanship, engineering and operations of gasoline engines in consonance with the characteristics and capabilities of the Q-Boats. During World War II, however, Japanese planes bombed the OSP Headquarters on 23 December 1941. The Base Commander burned the base before Japanese troops entered Manila.

The Philippine Naval Patrol

The Off Shore Patrol was reactivated on 01 October 1945, just after World War II. The OSP Training School was transferred to Cavite Naval Shipyard and renamed OSP Training Center; The OSP was further expanded and became a major unit of the Philippine Armed Forces. On 04 October 1947, the OSP was renamed Philippine Naval Patrol (PNP) during the time of President Manuel Roxas. On 05 January 1951, the PNP was further designated as the Philippine Navy.