

HISTORY OF THE AFP

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WAS FORMALLY ESTABLISHED ONLY AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IN ITS RICH MARTIAL TRADITION, THE MOST COLORFUL WERE THE DEFENSE OF BATAAN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE EXPLOITS OF THE FILIPINO SOLDIERS WHO WERE SENT TO KOREA AS MEMBERS OF PEFTOK IN THE EARLY 50S. COL ALEXANDER LANCASTER, THE ASSISTANT G-3 OF THE EIGHT U.S. ARMY, ONCE SAID "GIVE ME THE FILIPINO COMBAT TEAM AND I WILL FIGHT ANYWHERE ABOVE THE 38th PARALLEL". FOR THEIR COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND FIGHTING SPIRIT, THEY WERE DUBBED AS THE "STONEWALL OF THE U.N."

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 KRISES, 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

DURING THE FINAL DECADES OF SPANISH RULE IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE SPANISH MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WAS SO SMALL AND MIXED THAT THEY INCORPORATED FILIPINOS INTO THE SPANISH ARMY. BY 1860, THE ARMY HAD 10 INFANTRY REGIMENTS OF 4 BATTALIONS EACH, ONE CAVALRY REGIMENT, AN ARTILLERY CORPS AND A CORPS OF ENGINEERS. ALTHOUGH THE

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

TOWARDS THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY, THE FILIPINO CLAMOR FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE AND INDEPENDENCE BECAME STRONGER AND TRANSCENDED REGIONAL LINES. ON 7 JULY 1892, ANDRES BONIFACIO ORGANIZED THE KATAASTAASAN, KAGALANGGALANGANG KATIPUNAN NG MGA ANAK NG BAYAN. A SUPREME COUNCIL WAS FORMED A MONTH AFTER ITS FOUNDING. THE HEAD OF THE MOVEMENT WAS CALLED PRESIDENT BUT IN 1895, BONIFACIO CHANGED IT TO ***SUPREMO***. THE MOVEMENT DID NOT ONLY HAVE AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH BUT ALSO LEGISLATIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES THUS COMPLETING THE STRUCTURE OF ITS UNDERGROUND GOVERNMENT. COUNCILS OF WAR FROM THE NATIONAL TO THE LOCAL LEVELS WERE ALSO CREATED TO ENHANCE ITS STRENGTH. ON THE EVE OF THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION, THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD BONIFACIO AS SUPREMO, JACINTO AS SECRETARY OF STATE, TEODORO PLATA AS SECRETARY OF WAR, BRICCIO PANTAS AS SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, AND ENRIQUE PACHECO AS SECRETARY OF FINANCE.

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

AT THE TEJEROS CONVENTION ON 22 MARCH 1897, THE MAGDALO AND MAGDIWANG FACTIONS DECIDED TO DISSOLVE THE KATIPUNAN AND ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT CALLED "REPUBLICA FILIPINA". THE LOOSE, HETEROGENEOUS UNITS OF THE REVOLUTION COMPOSED THE FIRST FILIPINO ARMY WITH ARTEMIO RICARTE BEING ELECTED AS CAPITAN-HENERAL, A RANK WHICH CORRESPONDS TO TODAY'S CHIEF OF STAFF. THE TEJEROS CONVENTION MARKED ALSO THE SPLIT BETWEEN AGUINALDO AND BONIFACIO, CULMINATING IN THE LATTER'S DEATH.

CONTINUOUS SPANISH ATTACKS ON THE REVOLUTIONARIES DROVE AGUINALDO TO BULACAN WHERE HE DECLARED THE CONSTITUTION AND ESTABLISHED THE REPUBLIC OF BIAK-NABATO. AS THE REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE SHIFTED TO A PROLONGED, UNCONVENTIONAL WAR, THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES OFFERED AGUINALDO A TRUCE KNOWN AS THE PACT OF BIAK-NABATO. THE AGREEMENT STIPULATED THAT AGUINALDO AND HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD RETIRE IN VOLUNTARY EXILE IN HONGKONG, THE ARMY WOULD BE DISBANDED AND ITS WEAPONS TURNED IN.

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

THE SINKING OF THE BATTLESHIP **USS MAINE** IN APRIL 1898 SIGNALLED THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. THAT WAR WOULD CONTINUE FOR SOMETIME AND WOULD LATER RESULT IN THE DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH FLEET IN THE BATTLE OF MANILA BAY. AGUINALDO IMMEDIATELY ENDED HIS EXILE AND RETURNED TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE RELAUNCHING OF THE REVOLUTION. THE SERIES OF BATTLES BETWEEN THE FILIPINOS AND SPANIARDS WOULD FINALLY BE OVER ON JUNE 12 UPON AGUINALDO'S DECLARATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE AT THE BALCONY OF HIS HOUSE IN CAVITE.

ORGANIZING THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES

ON 30 JULY 1898, AGUINALDO ISSUED A DECREE ORGANIZING A STANDING ARMY FOR THE PHILIPPINES. THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WAS TO HAVE THE STANDARD MILITARY ARMS AND BRANCHES: INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, CAVALRY, ENGINEERS AND A GENERAL STAFF. SUPPORTING ELEMENTS WERE THE QUARTERMASTER DIVISION, THE JUDGE ADVOCATE DIVISION AND THE MEDICAL CORPS. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WAS PLACED ON THE SHOULDERS OF GEN ANTONIO LUNA.

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

THE BIAK-NA-BATO CONSTITUTION CONTAINED A PROVISION FOR THE CREATION OF THE NAVY WITH THE MISSION "TO PROTECT THE COASTS AND SEAS OF THE PHILIPPINES". THE FIRST EVER VESSEL OF THE FLEDGLING PHILIPPINE NAVY WAS A SPANISH TENDER TURNED OVER BY COMMODORE DEWEY TO AGUINALDO. IT WAS CHRISTENED "**MAGDALO**" AND HAD A PHILIPPINE FLAG HOISTED ON ITS MAST. MERCHANT MARINE VESSELS IN PHILIPPINE WATERS SOON JOINED THE LAND FORCES IN THEIR FIGHT. THUS, THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BEGAN TO GROW LIKE A "MOSQUITO FLEET".

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 BRILLIANCY 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 AMERICANS WAS THE PHILIPPINE SCOUTS. IN FEBRUARY 1901, THE PHIL SCOUTS FORMALLY BECAME A UNIT OF THE U.S. ARMY AND WERE PAID AS SOLDIERS BUT AT LEVELS BELOW THAT OF U.S. SERVICEMEN.

THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY

ON 18 JULY 1907, THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ENACTED ORGANIC ACT NUMBER 175 CREATING THE INSULAR CONSTABULARY "FOR THE PURPOSE OF BETTER MAINTAINING PEACE, LAW AND ORDER IN THE VARIOUS PROVINCES OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS". LT COL HENRY T ALLEN WAS THE FIRST CHIEF OF THE 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 DELOS 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

IN MAY 1938, THE CONSTABULARY DIVISION WAS SEPARATED FROM THE ARMY ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF PRES QUEZON. HE STATED THAT "LAW ENFORCEMENT IS NOT PROPERLY A MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY". FOR SEVEN MONTHS, THE PC OPERATED DIRECTLY UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AS DID THE ARMY. THE SEPARATION OF THE PC FROM THE ARMY WAS FURTHER FORMALIZED WHEN THE FORMER WAS OFFICIALLY PLACED UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

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 FIELD. 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, APPARI, 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

BY 1944, THE JAPANESE COULD NO LONGER HIDE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE LOSING THE WAR. WHILE THE GUERILLA RAIDED AND THE JAPANESE PARRIED, MACARTHUR WAS HEADING FOR LEYTE, LANDING AT PALO BEACH ON THE AFTERNOON OF 20 OCTOBER 1944. THE JAPANESE WERE SO DETERMINED AT DEFENDING LEYTE THAT THEY SENT REINFORCEMENTS AFTER REINFORCEMENTS OF TROOPS FROM LUZON RESULTING TO THE BIGGEST NAVAL BATTLE OF WW II - "THE BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF". FROM LEYTE, MACARTHUR BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN OF LIBERATING THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE JAPANESE. ON 1 JULY 1945, HE DECLARED THAT THE SOUTHERN PHIL CAMPAIGN IS FINALLY OVER AND FOUR DAYS LATER ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE STATING THAT THE ENTIRE PHIL WAS ALREADY LIBERATED.

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.

ON 30 JUNE 1946, ALL ORGANIZED MILITARY FORCES OF THE PHIL COMMONWEALTH WERE OFFICIALLY RELEASED FROM THE SERVICE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES. ON THE EVE OF PHIL INDEPENDENCE, THE PHIL ARMED FORCES REVERTED TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILS, AND THE ARMY ONCE AGAIN ASSUMED ITS OWN IDENTITY.

EXTERNAL DEFENSE & MILITARY ALLIANCES

ON 14 MARCH 1947, THE PHILS ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. REGARDING MILITARY BASES. UNDER THE MBA, THE U.S. WOULD RETAIN THE RIGHT TO USE THE BASE FOR 99 YEARS WHICH WAS REDUCED TO 25 YEARS IN 1966. A MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WAS ALSO SIGNED ON 21 MARCH 1947 STATING THAT THE U.S. IS OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, SERVICES AND TRAINING TO THE PHIL DEFENSE FORCE.

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.

THE COLLAPSE OF FRENCH COLONIAL RULE IN INDO-CHINA WAS SEEN BY THE U.S. AS THE START OF A COMMUNIST GRAND DESIGN FOR EXPANSION AT THE EXPENSE OF NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS. TO PREVENT THIS, A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT CALLED "SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION" (SEATO) WAS CREATED ON 8 SEPT 1954.

ORGANIZATION & EXPANSION OF THE AFP

ON 4 OCT 1947, PRES ROXAS ISSUED EFFECTED THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY INTO A SEPARATE FORCE AND ITS PLACEMENT UNDER THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR. THE ARMY OF THE PHILS WAS REDESIGNATED AS ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES. ALSO, THE MILITARY TRAINING COMMAND BECAME

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

ON 23 DEC 1950, PRES QUIRINO ISSUED EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 389 WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE ORDER REDESIGNATED HEADQUARTERS, AFP AS GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, AFP AND REESTABLISHED ITS FOUR MAJOR SERVICES: THE PHIL GROUND FORCE, PHIL AIR FORCE, PHIL NAVAL PATROL AND THE PHIL CONSTABULARY.

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 PHILS HAD LAID CLAIM TO THE SPRATLEY ISLANDS SINCE THE 50S. TO SAFEGUARD THE AREA AND ITS RESOURCES, WESCOM WAS CREATED AS ONE OF THE MULTI-SERVICE COMMANDS. A MARINE UNIT WAS STATIONED AT THE KALAYAAN ISLAND AND THE PAF'S 25th ATTACK SQUADRON WAS ACTIVATED AND DEPLOYED AT PALAWAN. UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO THE AREA, THE PAF LATER ASSIGNED SOME OF THE F-8H CRUSADER FIGHTER BOMBERS TO PUERTO PRINCESA IN PALAWAN AS PART OF WESCOM.

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 RELIES 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.

IT IS A DEPICTION OF THE FIGHTING TRADITION OF THE FILIPINOS. IT IS A RECORD OF THEIR BRAVERY, THEIR SACRIFICES AND THEIR UNDAUNTED AND PERSISTENT STRUGGLE TO MAKE THE COUNTRY FREE. IT IS AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR MISTAKES AND THEIR SHORTCOMINGS. ALL THESE ARE THE LESSONS OF HISTORY FOR, LEST WE FORGET, THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TODAY IS THE MIRROR AND THE FRUIT OF THE PAST.

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!