



Sealift Amphibious Force:

Pursuing Its Mandate as the *Work Horse* of the Philippine Fleet

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Since the 1970s, Sealift Amphibious Force (SAF) (formerly known as Service Force) has been dubbed as the Work Horse of not only the Philippine Fleet, but the entire Philippine Navy. According to Prof. Regino “Dodds” Giagonia, MNSA, author of the book “The Philippine Navy 1898-1996”, the SAF, which was called Service Force during those years, effectively provided auxiliary and support operations to all Navy ships. Its oilers and water tenders replenished ships requirements even in operational areas while its repair ships conducted mobile maintenance and repair services wherever they were needed.

Today, the SAF and its assets continue to attest that they are keeping their mandate to provide Sea-Based Command and Control; Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief; Search and Rescue Operations; and Shipboard Helicopter Operation especially for the coming of its very first Amphibious Transport Dock (ATD1), BRP Tarlac (LD601) which arrived during this year’s anniversary of the Philippine Navy. SAF pursues its thrust in cascading the Active Archipelagic Defense Strategy (AADS) and PN Sail Plan 2020 to their operating units, delivery of capability through sustained operational readiness and promptness to the transition of new capabilities that will guide the units in accomplishing their respective mandates. This Force also upholds the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) of Commander, SAF covering the period of CY2014 - CY2017 in consonance with the BSC of the Commander, Philippine Fleet.

With Our Floating Assets Today

From January 2015 to date, Sealift Amphibious Force accomplished its mission reaching 100% of its target deployed assets of three Strategic Sealift Ships, six Tactical Sealift Vessels and an Auxiliary Transport Vessel. Compared to its performance for the past year, SAF attained higher operational level of readiness and achieved 100% in the total training of its personnel. In terms of delivery of capability to operational commands, SAF was able to provide higher availability of floating assets based on its program of sustained operational readiness.

In summary, SAF floating assets accomplished 15 Territorial Defense Operation (TDO) missions in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), particularly the rotation of personnel, re-provisioning of KIG Detachments and ferry of civilian settlers and cargoes of Municipality of Kalayaan in Pag-asa Island. Furthermore, Sovereignty Patrols (SOVPAT) were piloted in areas 3, 4 and 5 in the Spratlys and search of the reported buoy near the breaker of Amy Douglas Bank logging a total of 1,628 hours 43 minutes steaming time, 9,239.58 Nautical Miles total miles covered with 863 civilian and military passengers ferried and 2,132 tons civilian and military cargoes transported.

Also, SAF vessels conducted three Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations in Mapanas, Northern Samar, and transport of relief goods to Poro Point San Antonio, La Union. Recently, SAF transported relief goods intended for the Province of Cagayan which was severely affected by Typhoon Lando, logging a total of 632 hours 3 minutes steaming time, 4,616 Nautical Miles covered 369 tons of relief goods transported.

SAF floating assets also conducted different Civil Military Operations (CMO) in various forms and ways so that they could provide assistance to the municipality under their Area of Responsibility (AOR). SAF's multi dimensional role in support to military and non-military operations is essential, and must be instilled in each sailor in consonance with the PN Core Values.



With our routine works

SAF fully adheres to the culture of maintenance and repair which is one of the major factors why a SAF vessel continuously remains operational. SAF is well-known for its habit of having progressive and preventive repair and maintenance. As to date, repair of BRP Benguet (LS507) is in-progress which is estimated to be upgraded to Level II (Ready for Sea) before the end of

this year. SAF regularly conducts inspection and preventive maintenance of the equipment and machineries of its vessels, which is the primary concern of the current Commander, SAF. As a result, the SAF was able to support the repair of Main Propulsion Diesel Engine Nr. 1 and No. 2 of BRP Laguna (LS501), BRP Mangyan (AC71) and BRP Ang Pangulo (AY25). Other preventive repairs and maintenance were also conducted to other SAF vessels.

Administrative and logistical requirements of SAF floating assets were strictly monitored. SAF was able to approved 27 different logistical requirements of its floating assets to ensure its readiness prior every mission.



1 unit of Multi-Cab for the operational requirement of LC551

As the cutting edge to be razor-sharp must constantly be polished, much like seamanship skills and technical proficiency must always be practiced. To address the demands of the operating environment, SAF fully observes the Philippine Navy Training System in enhancing the competency of its people. Training is always a part of the Navy's daily routine.

The Sealift Amphibious Warfare School (SAWS) was able to conduct 24 indoctrination courses and trainings to its personnel particularly the preparatory trainings for the crew of their new assets the Amphibious Transport Dock BRP Tarlac (LD601), three Landing Craft Heavy (LCH) and BRP Gregorio Velasquez (AGR702).

In pursuit of excellence, the Navy's standard demands nothing but the best. SAF regularly conducts ship and personnel inspection to correct deficiencies and ensure high level of readiness.

SAF Vessels	Service Provided
BRP Mangyan (AS71)	Repair of P/S Intake Blowers Repair of SSDG#2 Salt Water Pump Procurement of Tension Belt, Circuit Breaker and Converter Diodes
BRP Ang Pangulo (AT25)	Replacement of Fresh Water Pump Repair of ACU Bank
BRP Laguna (LT501)	Repair of Port Propeller
BRP Bacolod City (LC550)	Repair of Chilled Water Pump Motor No. 1 of the ACU
Tanker 1,2 and 3	Dry docking and other related repair of Tankers

SAF initiated the conduct of BEST-BEST Competition among its personnel. This is a monthly inspection on personnel, barracks, office, bunks, and lockers where anyone who stands out in this kind of inspection will be adjudged as Model EP, Best Locker, Best Bunks, Best Barracks and Best Office with a Certificate of Recognition and a banner to be awarded.

Physical fitness defines a sailors' healthy life. SAF conducts several sports activities and regular calisthenics to promote a healthy lifestyle. Aside from these activities, this Force also initiates the regular conduct of Troop Information and Education (TI & E) activities every Tuesdays and Thursdays, Quarterly Commander's Time, Monthly Fellowship and Rest and Recreation.

The Philippine Navy's undying commitment "to serve and succeed the right and honorable way" has been proven by SAF's increasing accomplishments. The Sealift Amphibious Force has been unwavering and true to its motto: "Projection of Naval Power through Relevant and Excellent Service" With the Philippine Navy's aim of establishing a credible naval defense force under the AADS, the SAF shall aim to establish an organization capable of providing combat logistics for prolonged operations to enable our naval forces to deploy and remain at sea for extended periods within and beyond Philippine waters.



ACTIVITIES	INVOLVED	NR of PERS	DATE
Landing Craft Heavy Training	LCH-1 (20) Sailing Crew LCH-2 (20) Sailing Crew	40	12 Feb 15 to 28 May 15
SOP # 04 SAF Qualification Standard	LCDR JUDE JOSEPH A SUMPAY PN LT BACCAY LTJG ROSARIO LTJG DACATIMBANG LTJG SERQUENA LTJG JONATHAN S DE CASTRO PN	6	27 Feb 2015
SAF Indoctrination Course CL-01-15	Newly Assigned Officers & Enlisted Personnel	7	10 Feb to 15 May 2015
SAF Indoctrination Course CL-02-15	Newly Assigned Officers	19	17 March to 15 May 2015
Landing Craft Heavy 1 & 2 Training	LCH ship's crew	40	25 February 15 to June 15
Motor Tanker Operations Course	Ship's Crew of BRP Cairaya AF81	20	16 Mar 15 to 20 Mar 15
Exercise Pagsubok 2015 FTX	Ship's Crew LC551 MBLT-1 MC8	155	23 Jun to 27 Jun 15
Amphibious Operations Course	SAF Officers	13	26 May to 16 July 2015
Amphibious Ship to Shore Course	SAF Enlisted Personnel	7	26 May to 16 July 2015
Training Needs Assessment	SAF Unit Training Officers	10	29 Jun to 10 July 2015
Seminar on Law of the Sea	SAF Officers/ EP	16	15 June 2015
SAF Indoctrination Course CL-03-15	Newly Assigned Officers	17	27 July to 20 Aug 2015
SAF Indoctrination Course CL-04-15	Newly Assigned EP	7	27 July to 20 Aug 2015
Training Needs Assessment	CDR ELVIRA R GONZALES PN LT DARWIN T GUILLARTE PN LT JAY-R B RENDON PN LTJG REDEN MARIVELES PN LTJG JOHN MARLO C SERQUENA PN LTJG JHENE R CASTILLOTE PN	6	19-20 August 2015
Motor Tanker Operations Course	Ship's Crew Tanker 2	13	10 Aug-12 Sep 15
Training Needs Assessment	SAF Unit Training Officers	10	
SSV PREPARATORY TRAINING	SSV Ship's Crew	89	Aug 2015
Amphibious Operations Planning Course	SSV Officers	12	
Sealift Operations Course	SSV Officers	12	
Sealift Operations Planning Course	SSV Officers	12	
Amphibious Operations Course	SSV Officers	12	
Amphibious Sealift Operations Manual	PMT's/ Forces Rep	12	
R/V Melville Preparatory Training	R/V Melville Sailing Crew	29	18 Jan 2016 to 18 Feb 2016
LCH Preparatory Training	LCH 3, 4 and 5	26	18 Jan 2016 to present