

# PHILIPPINE NAVY



# ROUGH DECK LOG

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY • VOLUME NO. 109 • JANUARY 2022



*"By 2028 , We shall be a Modern, Multi-Capable Naval Force responsive to our Maritime Nation's Defense and Development"*



# ROUGH DECK LOG

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### ABOUT THE COVER

The Philippine Navy, along with other branches of service, reservists, and the Office of Civil Defense sent various transportation assets to deliver goods to affected areas in time for the celebration of Christmas and New Year.

## Protecting the Seas, Securing the Future

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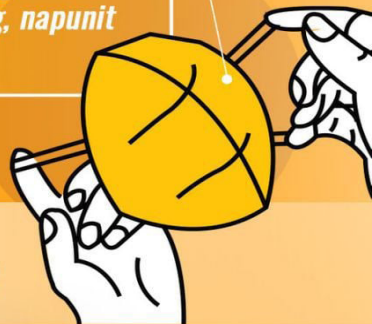
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# ALAMIN ANG TAMANG IMPORMASYON SA PAGSUOT NG MASK!



## FACT



## FAKE



1. Makakatulong din ang mga mask na gawa sa tela sa pagharang ng droplets na maaaring may laman na COVID-19 virus.
2. Hindi dahil wala kang sintomas ay wala ka nang COVID. Protektahan ang sarili at ang mga tao sa paligid. Palaging magsuot ng mask!
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4. Para mas protektado ka laban sa COVID, kailangang matakpan ng mask ang iyong bibig at ilong.

1. Hindi gumagana ang mask na gawa sa tela.
2. Hindi na kailangang magsuot ng mask kapag walang nararamdamang sintomas,
3. Mahirap huminga kapag may suot na mask.
4. Bibig lang ang dapat tinatakpan ng mask.



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## THE PHILIPPINE NAVY RECRUITMENT PROCESS AMIDST THE PANDEMIC



By: **ENS JULIUS N CO PN**  
CMO Officer, NPMC



Since the onset of the pandemic, the Philippine Navy has experienced difficulty in processing applicants for enlistment and commission due to COVID-19 restrictions in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces where most of the applicants are from. The intensified restrictions were commonly added in NCR as infections of the highly transmittable Delta variant rapidly increased. This pandemic took a toll on the operation of the Recruitment Office and the Support Team.

Due to the implementation of heightened COVID-19 protocols, the capacity of Manila Naval Hospital (MNH) and Cavite Naval Hospital (CNH) to accommodate applicants has become limited. They catered not only to the applicants but also to the PN personnel who needed their services during this pandemic. This difficult situation led to the high negative variance in the PN's ATS. As of 03 September 2021, the negative variance for Officers and Enlisted

Personnel has reached 419 (309 Regular and 110 Officer Candidates) and 1,265 (705 Regular and 395 Candidate Soldiers), respectively. This affects not only the PN but the whole AFP due to unfilled positions intended for PN personnel in GHQ, Unified Commands, and AFP Wide Service Support Units (GUAs).

To offset the unfavorable effect of COVID-19 which led to the high negative variance of personnel fill-up in the Philippine Navy, the effort of the Recruitment and support teams was greatly strengthened. Modifications of the recruitment processes and activities were made such as the outsourcing of Physical and Medical Examination (PE/ME) and Dental Examination to other AFP MTFs and utilizing online platforms as means of collecting requirements from applicants, skill tests, and interviews. The initial screening of applicants, NP screening, PE/ME, and other activities were conducted simultaneously in the fourth quarter of CY 2021.

CNH continued its process of IQ/NP Examination and PE/ME to applicants of Naval Officer Candidate Course, Marine Basic Course, and Naval Air Wing Special Enlistment. At the same time, MNH also administered the IQ/NP Examination and PE/ME to applicants of Sailor Basic Course and PE/ME of Special Enlistment applicants for Auto Mechanic Certified Driver (AMCD), Musician (MU), Intelligence Specialist



(NISF-IS) and Communications, Electronics and Information System Service, AFP (CEISSAFP). They planned and scheduled the process of applicants so that the other transactions of the hospital will not be hampered such as the reenlistment process, APE, scheduled COVID-19 vaccination for PN personnel and dependents, and other activities. The processing of applicants was done per group and they were required to present a negative antigen test result prior to the examination. The applicants for NOCC were billeted at Evangelical Church, Sangley Point Cavite City while the SBC applicants were housed in the containerized barracks and tents located at Navy Personnel Management Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. It took two to three weeks per group to complete the process from IQ/NP examination to PE/ME.

On 08-10 October 2021, the Philippine Navy AFPSAT Team administered the AFP Service Aptitude Test (AFPSAT) to 300 Special Enlistment applicants at Sangley Point Cavite City wherein 231 applicants passed for enlistment. Moreover, one Psychologist from NP Section of MNH was placed on detached service with Navy Personnel Management Center from 03 November 2021 to 03 January 2022 to continuously process the AFPSAT Examination of applicants. A total of 281 applicants for NOCC, 300 for SBC, and 207 for Special Enlistment took the scheduled AFPSAT Exam in the different venues at Bonifacio Naval Station, Taguig City. Out of 788 examinees, 82 passed for commission and 376 for enlistment. The AFPSAT passers proceeded to the next step of the recruitment process which is the IQ/NP Examination.

The NP Team from Camp Panacan Hospital, Davao City conducted the Neuro-Psychiatric/Psychological Examination to 1,003 applicants for Sailor Basic Course and Special Enlistment on 22-30 November 2021 at Bonifacio Naval Station. The NP examination resulted in 703 passers (382 SBC and 321 Special Enlistment) who were recommended to undergo the PE/ME. These recommended applicants continued their PE/ME process at MNH, Army General Hospital, and Air Force General Hospital.

The collaborative efforts of the Recruitment and support teams of the Philippine Navy contributed to the appointment of 240 Sailor Candidates and 146 Special Enlistments (61 ISAFP, 35 NICTC, 28 PSG, and 22 CRSAFP) in December 2021. The remaining applicants who are undergoing the PE/ME process are expected to be completed and will join the regular force of the Philippine Navy in the first quarter of CY 2022.

The recruitment process in itself is already challenging but COVID-19 had made it even more difficult. Despite all the struggles brought by the pandemic, the Navy Personnel Management Center sees to it that Christmas Season is still celebrated meaningfully. One of the highlights of this Unit's Christmas celebration is by conducting a gift-giving activity. In coordination with Philippine Children's Medical Center, NPMC was able to distribute 105 bags with assorted biscuits and educational toys for 105 beneficiaries consisting of charity patients ages two to ten years old. 10 gallons of multi-purpose disinfectant and Isopropyl Alcohol were also donated.

The successful recruitment process was due to the dedication and perseverance of the Recruitment and support teams of the Philippine Navy who performed their assigned tasks efficiently despite all the trouble brought by COVID-19. Their commitment and hard work contributed to the overall mission accomplishment of the Philippine Navy. Efficiency and effectiveness are indeed the key factors that made it possible to reach this goal. With the right people who embody these ideals, there is nothing impossible even amidst the pandemic. ■





## PHILIPPINE NAVY LOGISTICS OFFICERS FORUM (PNLOF) 2021



By: Ms. Lyka Marie Suzanne C. Asay Civ-HR  
Office of the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Logistics, N4



Before the year ends, the Office of AC of NS for Logistics, N4 conducted its annual Philippine Navy Logistics Forum (PNLOF) last December 14, 2021 with 70 attendees from different PN units via VTC with the theme “Logistics: Proactive and Responsive Amidst the Pandemic.”

The said forum is the most awaited annual gathering of different Logistics Officers to strengthen the culture of excellence and professionalism in the organization through the sharing of best practices in logistics from the different PN Units.

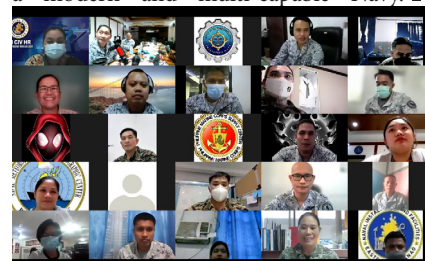
During the said event, Staff Officers from O/N4 presented the various activities/projects undertaken by the Philippine Navy with emphasis on its progress, sustainment, and advancement during the new normal.

The newly formulated, reviewed, and revised existing policies were also disseminated such as the Philippine Navy Technical Specifications and Test Parameters for Individual Clothing and Individual Equipment (IC & IE) and Philippine Navy Enhanced Uniform Store (PNEUS). The PN Logisticians were also reminded regarding the guidelines on PPMP, Importance of End-User Monitoring for US Government Defense Article, and Early Procurement Activities.

Furthermore, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), lecturers from NASO, NSPAO, PNMO were invited to discuss the Reconciliations of PPE and future PN Acquisition Programs as part of the Philippine Navy’s vision to become a modern and multi-capable Navy. The other related logistics function offices like N6 for C4ISR equipment and N11 for ships and repair maintenance presented updates and other necessary information.

Subsequently, the way ahead for various activities/projects were discussed such as the issuance of Combat boots on the 1st-2nd quarter of 2022 together with the CCIE rolling plan and the publication of the policy for Early Procurement Activities (EPA).

Through the PNLOF, the PN logisticians were able to promote camaraderie and enhance coordination and cooperation with one another and showcase the efforts in achieving its vision to become a modern and multi-capable Navy. ■



## BANGON VISAYAS: NAVAL FORCES CENTRAL CONDUCTS HUMANITARIAN AND RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR TYPHOON HIT AREAS IN VISAYAS REGION

By: LTJG FRANCES MAYE M MACAPINIG PN  
Naval Forces Central, Public Affairs Office



Just like the Tagalog expression “Hiraya Manawari,” which when translated means to fulfill one’s dream and aspiration, the Visayas expression “Puhon” holds a dear meaning to the Visayan people as it signifies hope and faith for things to get better soon. With the current situation in the Visayas region, puhon implies hope and faith that after the storm comes the courage to stand and rebuild what was lost.

On December 16, 2021, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) declared the ephemeris of Super Typhoon Odette,



internationally known as Rai, in the areas of Visayas and Mindanao. The typhoon left extensive destruction and damage in its path. Its torrential rains, violent winds, and storm surges damaged thousands of houses, infrastructures, and tourist destination, livelihood and crops, injured hundreds, and even claimed lives. It is then a riddle on what and on how much can we be of help to our fellowmen that were directly affected of



the typhoon's wrath knowing that the home of Your Navy in the Visayas is not exempted from the destruction. The devastation greatly idles the region's economic situation leading to difficulties of the affected to acquire their daily sustenance, and drinking water source. But the most heart breaking is knowing that celebrating Christmas and New Year will never be the same for them.

However, being a victim itself of this circumstance, the Naval Forces Central is determined to remain responsive and continuously conduct humanitarian and relief operations to the typhoon-hit areas under its responsibility. In response to this disastrous calamity, Naval Forces Central through Naval Task Force (NTF) 50 deployed its operational control floating Navy vessels, namely: BRP Agta (LC 290), BRP Tausug (LC295), BRP Subanon (LC291), BRP Ivatan (LC298), BRP Abraham Campo (PC396), BRP Enrique Junrado (PC371), BRP Alfredo Peckson (PC372), and Patrol Boats 358 and 356 to transport relief items, essential goods, boxes and gallons of drinking water, vehicles, and heavy equipment for power restoration in coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU).

Since the onslaught of Super Typhoon Odette, Naval Forces Central has continuously transported relief goods and assistance to the typhoon hit areas in the Visayas, including the remote islands and barangays, which are difficult to access.

With the Visayas' region unique geographical location, we are challenged to stay on the ground during these calamities. Nevertheless, in times of disaster, there is no greater advocacy than to extend a hand and service to those who greatly needs it. This endeavor is not just the Naval Forces Central's accomplishment but also of the Visayas Command and of the entirety of the Philippine Navy together with its partner stakeholders and organizations in the Visayas. Your Navy in the Visayas is not just limited to protecting the maritime community; but also, an auxiliary force of the local government in providing assistance and aid particularly in the conduct of humanitarian and relief assistance. Naval Forces Central, together with partner stakeholders, is one with the typhoon-hit affected areas to help them bounce back in this trying time and to effectively and efficiently transport and deliver basic goods and commodities. These are geared towards the restoration and rebuilding a progressive economic-inclusive Visayas Region. ■



## NEWLY REACTIVATED PS20 ARRIVES BOOSTS HADR AS WELL AS COMMAND AND CONTROL IN SURIGAO



By: Leah P. Salonga Civ-HR  
Philippine Fleet Public Affairs Office



Arriving in the cover of darkness on the eve of the New Year, the Commanding Officer of the newly-reactivated PS20, Commander Raphael Leyritana PN, did not imagine the extent of damage in this once pristine, lush and green-covered hillsides of Surigao City. The city is also known as "The City of Island Adventures" with its cheerful mix of heritage as well as natural and island destinations. Surigao suitably earned the reputation as the tourism hub of the Caraga region last January 4, 2022 in Surigao del Norte.

At daybreak of the 1st day of the New Year, however, the sailors of PS20 saw first-hand some of the pitiful sights of the devastation caused by super typhoon Odette -- fallen trees, flattened hillsides, landslides, and torn-down and roofless houses. Sailors from the Philippine Fleet (PF) as well as personnel from the Naval Special Operations Command (NAVSOCOM) did not waste time in carrying out their mercy mission as they offloaded 1.2 tons of the 18.43 tons of assorted care packs (food, water, hygiene kits) at the pier. While in Surigao, the crew also loaded additional 1.84 tons of bananas to be included in the total care packs aboard

PS20 bound for the Dinagat Islands. "Our voyage to Surigao went very smoothly. We arrived safely and did not encounter any derangement. PS20 is still a very reliable ship," Commander Leyritana proudly stated.

Meanwhile, the Commander of the Philippine Fleet, Rear Admiral Alberto B Carlos PN, was equally pleased to know of the safe arrival of PS20 in the operational area. "So far, it was a good decision that we recommended the reactivation of PS20 as we put all resources to bear in this HADR effort. We are grateful that (Flag Officer In Command Philippine Navy, Vice Admiral Adeluis S Bordado PN) approved our request."

The ship's crew of 49 sailors (7 officers and 41 enlisted personnel) with one team of Navy seals from NAVSOCOM (1 officer and 5 enlisted personnel) were recalled from their holiday break as the ship was reactivated. Notably, the former BRP MAGAT SALAMAT PS20 was decommissioned on December 10, 2020 after 77 years of service to humanity, 44 years of which was in service to the Filipino people. ■



# "HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY AT PATNONGON, ANTIQUE IN SUPPORT OF DAGIT-PA 2021"



By: Ms Roselle C Dimanalata Civ-HR  
NAVMETOC

Naval Meteorological and Oceanographic Center (NAVMETOC) was deployed and conducted a hydrographic survey and beach study at the vicinity of Patnongon, Antique from 06 to 30 October 2021. It was initiated by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) head planners to address the issues or concerns and develop a way ahead on the final planning exercise of Dagat, Langit at Lupa 2021 (DAGIT-PA 2021). The information gathered from the survey is essential to the exercise particularly in amphibious operations for maneuverability, landing ships, crafts, and troops. The gathering of bathymetry, oceanographic data, and study of environmental features were successfully carried out in two barangays of Patnongon, Antique. The primary area was Bato Bugtong Beach Resort, Brgy. Igarawan and the alternate area was Brgy. Amparo beaches and approaches.



cancel several scheduled operations due to unfavorable sea condition for the safety of personnel and equipment. The purpose of boat sounding was to scan and search wrecks, obstructions within the area. This data was converted and produced as a chart to be used by the Philippine Navy floating assets during the exercise and for future operations.

The hydrographic surveyors were composed of eight personnel from NAVMETOC and used the new hydrographic and oceanographic equipment in support of the survey platform and other requirements from Headquarters Naval Forces Central (HNFC). On the first day of the survey, the team observed for six hours to get the accurate position of the area for validation and installed local benchmarks or reference stations. Coastlining was part of the survey as well to determine the features of the area such as delineation of roads, creeks, and other prominent features. Beach profiling and seabed sampling were also conducted but most of the hydrographic survey conducted in one month was covered by boat sounding operations. However, the survey team needed to

The team ensured the accuracy and reliability of the collected information and it was completed despite the weather condition brought by Southwest Moonsoon. The challenges and accomplishments of the hydrographic survey were conquered through the collaboration of the AFP and Local Government Unit (LGU). NAVMETOC sincerely extends its gratitude as part of the planning in DAGIT-PA 2021 and for the nonstop support of AFP head planners, NFC, BRP Fort San Felipe (AGS700), Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Barangay Officials of Patnongon, Antique. The Center will continue its role to provide scientific information and will perform its incomparable responsibility to become a fully capable and sustainable support unit to the AFP and prominently to the PN. ■



# "THE GRADUATION THAT TURNS INTO HADR (HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF) OPERATIONS"



By: Aspirant Krista G. Barbosa, PN(M)RES  
Aspirant Elizar A. Albuero, PN(M)RES  
Naval Reserve Command



The Philippine Navy Basic Citizen Military Course Class 04-2021 or otherwise known as "CLASS R.I.F.L.E", the acronym for Reserved Individuals For Liberty and Empowerment is the pioneering class of Medellin Town composed of 58 aspiring individuals to be part of the NAVY RESERVE FORCE that is set to graduate on December 19, 2021. However, due to Super Typhoon Odette that struck the entire Metro Cebu, Lapu-lapu City and the other part of Southern Cebu, the class graduation ceremony was delayed and postponed.

It has been a struggle for the class when the Super Typhoon Yolanda hit Northern Cebu and we can relate to the feeling of being devastated. With the unpredictable occurrence, the class initiated a DONATION DRIVE FOR SUPER TYPHOON ODETTE VICTIMS. The class did not fail to remember the true ultimate centering presence of God Himself; the spirit of Christmas is the time of love and generosity. Even though the class felt the scarcity of resources in town, God really has ways to provide and made all things possible for us to serve. With the help of the Sto. Niño Parish in Medellin, the class were able to campaign in this donation



drive and in just three days (from December 22-24, 2021) they were able to mobilize and gather a lot of donations like used clothing, canned goods, bottles of water and even cash assistance. The class thinks that it's their time to give back to the people who responded when they were the one who needed a helping hand. Many of the citizens have answered to this call and happily the class was able to repack 230 packs of rice with canned goods, 446 bottled water to sustain the





needs of our brothers and sisters that are greatly affected by this disaster.

On December 24, 2021, the Class R.I.F.L.E has handed over the relief packs to Brgy. Captain Francisco Gilig Jr. of Olango Island with transportation assistance from LGU Medellin and through the Naval Reserve Center Eastern Visayas headed by CDR James Francis Lugtu and Naval Forces Central headed by CAPT Raul Regis. Gilig said to an interview by TV5, "It is very important for us to receive this help most especially in this time. The transportation from the Island to Mainland is very difficult because some of the vessels were destroyed by the Typhoon." An air of melancholy greeted the class as they stepped foot on the island. The class has never been to Olango Island not until that time, but they knew that it doesn't look like that. The silver lining of it all is the resiliency they saw in their eyes that despite of how much they suffered during the onslaught of the typhoon, they remain steadfast. This is one way of helping the typhoon-stricken communities as a return gesture when Northern Cebu was badly devastated by Typhoon Yolanda way back in 2013. Aspirant Krista Barbosa said in the same interview by TV5, "As a response to the help they have given us during Typhoon Yolanda, now is the time to help them in return."

The class has witness the real scenario in the affected areas in Southern Cebu and decided to pursue the donation drive activity

from December 26-29, 2021. Many of the donors has decided to be "ANONYMOUS." The graduation has turned to relief operations as the class continues to support and extend assistance to the fellow reservists in 513rd Naval Squadron Reserve. On December 30, 2021, the class has handed 60 food packs and two (2) boxes of bottled waters to LTJG Abner A. Regis, PN (RES) in Naga City, Cebu and 150 food packs, 14 boxes of bottled water, and 1000L of purified drinking water to PO2 Christian B. Friolo PN (RES) in Boljoon, Cebu. As of this writing, they have also a standby of 500 relief packs sponsored by Aboitiz Foundation through LT.COL. Giles Anthony Villamor, MNSA, one of the graduates of MATATAG CLASS and this is set to be distributed for Moalboal, Badian, and Alegria, Cebu after the class Field Training Exercise (FTX) and graduation ceremony.

The class is reminded of the famous quote by Chief Seattle that "take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints." The class consider themselves as "SEMI-GRADUATE" but the spirit and pride of being a NAVY RESERVIST is always instilled in their hearts and minds, which is to serve the people through humanitarian services. The class continues to strengthen its commitment to help not only in calamities but also in other activities and initiatives to help the community.

We are Navy Reserve, proud to serve! ■



## Game-changers: Two Bills to Focus on for 2022



By: Miguel Angelo A. De Castro  
Office of Naval Strategic Studies



Amid legislative, rules and regulations, as well as media focus being centered on public health measures that would address the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact to the Philippines, two potentially high-impact bills have made significant strides into becoming national laws which are first, the amending of the Public Service Act (PSA) and second, the Maritime Zones Act (MZA). Amending the PSA allows the potential 100% Foreign Ownership over a defined set of public utilities and services while the MZA provides a clear delineation of the Philippine Maritime Zones and harmonizes its laws with UNCLOS. While the two bills are distinctly in different stages and have considerably contrasting media mileage, their future implementation would directly impact how the Philippines and the Philippine Navy (PN) will navigate the security environment. Considering a

potential change of pace and priorities following the upcoming Philippine election, it is worth reviewing the two bills and how their enactment into law would impact the Philippines.

### The Public Service Act: Updating an 86-year-old law

Under Article XII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, no franchise, certificate, or any other form of authorization for the operation of a public utility shall be granted except to citizens of the Philippines or to corporations or associations organized under the laws of the Philippines that is at least 60% owned by Filipino citizens. This Filipino-first principle precedes the 1987 Constitution, as the PSA itself was enshrined in the Philippine legislature in 1936 as the Commonwealth Act No. 146.





The PSA, however, had a confusing definition of “public utility,” and offered an unclear delineation between public utility and public services. Accordingly, those deemed as public utilities were bounded by PSA stipulations, and it helped create a system of monopolies to several industries. As a result, this protectionist clause has only hindered the entry of certain foreign investments in needed technologies to improve existing services. This clause is especially true for internet service providers, as research has found that relaxing foreign ownership restrictions could encourage investment centered on expanding wired and fixed broadband services .

These concerns could only be addressed by amending the 86-year-old PSA, which is what the Philippine Congress aims to do. The latest version passed by the senate (SB-2094) in December 2021 amends the PSA by providing a clear scope of what are considered as public utilities. SB-2094 narrows the scope of public utilities to the following:

1. Distribution and transmission of electricity;
2. Petroleum and petroleum products pipeline transmission or distribution systems;
3. Water pipeline distribution systems and wastewater pipeline systems;
4. Airports;
5. Seaports;
6. Public Utility Vehicles; and
7. Expressways and Tollways.

On the other hand, telecommunications, airlines, railways and subways, as well as the shipping industry would now be open for foreign ownership as these are considered as public services. SB-2049 also has safeguards against foreign ownership in public services, which are considered as “critical infrastructure.” In addition, these public services would be subject to review by the National

Security Council. It also contains a reciprocity clause stating foreign nationals shall not be allowed to own more than 40% of capital in public services engaged in the operation and management of critical infrastructure, unless their country accords reciprocity to Philippine nationals.

Currently, a Bicameral Conference Committee was called to discuss differences between the senate’s version (SB-2049) and the House of Representatives-approved version (HBN-78). The key differences between SB-2049 and HBN-78 are the terms of the reciprocity clause and that the house bill espouses a different criterion for public service. President Duterte previously certified the urgent approval of SBN-2094, with economic managers saying that it will help the Philippines recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and improve its standing in mobilizing more foreign capital .

### **The Maritime Zones Act: 11 years in the making**

During the 2021 Maritime Security Symposium, the presentation of former Flag-Officer-In-Command VADM GIOVANNI CARLO J BACORDO PN (Ret.) stated that the goal of having a clearly defined marine territory is to have a clear determination of rights over the use and utilization of marine domain and resources, the determination of responsibilities for the development of the marine domain, and the protection and conservation of marine resources. He also identified the MZA as a key component to fulfilling the goal mentioned above with hopes to establish the extent of the Philippines’ maritime entitlements under the UNCLOS.

On December 07, 2021, on its third and final reading, the House of Representatives passed HB 9981 or the MZA Bill. The MZA provides the defining of maritime zones for the Philippines, in particular the

following: internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf. The bill also legally and definitively defines the country’s exclusive rights to explore and exploit resources found in these respective zones, in strict accordance with the UNCLOS. The recognition of archipelagic water also paves the way for the country to establish its archipelagic identity alongside another critical bill lying in wait, which is the Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act.

The possible passage of this bill bodes well for Philippine maritime agencies because it would help in the proper delineation of jurisdiction among these agencies. As noted by Maritime Affairs expert Prof. Jay L. Batongbacal: “That (Maritime Zones Act) is very important especially for our law enforcers, and the navy, coast guard, and maritime police because before, there would always be questions as to whether or not something can or cannot be done in a particular area of the Philippine seas because of the inconsistencies between the old law and international law” . While regretting the bill’s overdue, officials from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) also expressed how the MZA provides a definitive legal basis for them to draw the outer limits of the Philippine Maritime Zone.

### **Looking Ahead**

While the PSA is classified as urgent, beyond descriptive differences and different terms for reciprocity, the debate to move beyond protectionist nationalist policies continues in both legislative branches. Further, there are notable concerns from key industries such as the Philippine Shipping Industry, who raised how the bill does not address the industry’s actual problems. The case of foreign ships receiving fuel subsidy overseas while domestic shipping companies

get none was also raised. In addition, while liberalizing telecommunications opens up doors to revitalize and upgrade an underdeveloped industry , there are still considerable risks and vulnerabilities in having Philippine telecommunication operations be subject to complete foreign control, including the possibility of politicking and issues related to national security.

On the other hand, while the House passing of MZA is a welcome development for maritime agencies, all three senate bills regarding the MZA have yet to go beyond the 1st reading in committee. Considering how there are only six months left for the administration to sign this bill into law, its progress may likely be derailed further depending on the priorities that will be set by the incoming administration.

Despite the potential setbacks that these two bills progression will likely encounter into law, there could be optimism gained in seeing how the aforementioned bills highlight recognition among policymakers on the urgent need to review and update outdated laws. If an 86-year-old law can be classified as urgent and be acted upon in two years, this would be a good precedent for the amendment of the equally-outdated National Defense Act of 1935. Likewise, as mentioned earlier, the MZA Bill is recognized by the PN itself as key legislation that it could advocate and push for in incoming discussions with the next incumbent. Further, if the MZA bill is treated more urgently and made headways in the senate, it could also be an appropriate time to encourage the same treatment for the ASL bill which remains pending in their respective committees’ 1st reading for both house and senate. Considering the implications of these bills to how the Philippines will navigate its security environment, its developments are a must-follow for the PN. ■



FEATURE STORY

# It's the Season of Giving

By: Dearl Jean V Morales Civ-HR  
Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao, PAO



The world unexpectedly came to a halt when the Corona virus outbreak shook everyone's lives. It was a time when a lot of people experienced great loss, a time when people were sucked into a dark abyss called depression and a time when people lost, not only their jobs but also their loved ones. It was on March 11, 2020 when the rapid increase in the number of cases led the WHO Director-General to announce that the outbreak could be characterized as a pandemic. By then, more than 118 000 cases had been reported in 114 countries, and 4291 deaths had been recorded.

In the Philippines, it was around March 2020 when the cases began to increase in numbers and from then on, started to claim lives. Business establishments were closed, physical contact was minimal, leisure activities and gatherings were prohibited, and people were advised to stay at home.

When the 2020 Christmas season came, some were disheartened for they cannot spend the holiday with their families, or celebrate Christmas with the whole extended family. Everyone was encouraged to celebrate the Christmas season in its essence. Yet this year, things were starting to look up for every Filipino people. How can we celebrate Christmas in its essence? It is said that Christmas is the season of love and giving. In the early days of December, the Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao (NFEM) gave Noche Buena packages to 105 random fishermen

fishing along the seawaters of Davao Gulf, Agusan del Norte, Surigao, and General Santos City during the conduct of the Simultaneous Gift-giving at Sea. The participating vessels for this activity include BRP Ismael Lomibao (PC383), BRP Hilario Ruiz (PC378), the Multi-Purpose Boat Attack 486 (MPAC486) and the Naval Special Operations Unit 7 (NAVSOU7). The idea of this activity was aligned with the COVID-19 protocol of social distancing. When conducting gift-giving activities in barangays or certain areas, there would be a huge crowd coming in. Yet, through this gift-giving at sea, the Command can still give presents to those who really needed it without violating the health protocols.

The personnel aboard the participating vessels put on a front act of apprehending the fishermen they've encountered, interviewing them and asking for their legal documents. Later on, the personnel surprised them with a Noche Buena package, putting on their Santa hats and bright smiles as part of the costume. The fishermen couldn't help but smile and feel relieved, some were even teary-eyed to be bringing home something special for their family. During this time, it was not only the receiver who felt happiness but the giver as well, for nothing is more joyful than seeing others happy because of your kindness. In the darkest time of our lives, Christmas season or not, may we never forget to be kind and giving to others. ■



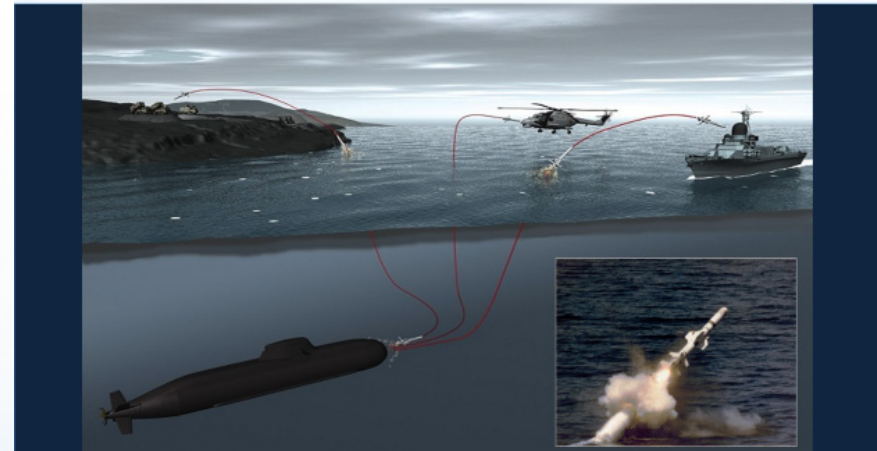
# INVESTMENTS VIS-À-VIS PHILIPPINE SUBMARINE FORCE



By: ENS PRINCE CHARLES B BAUYOT PN



## Defining the Modern Day Submarine Symmetric Warfare – Wartime Operations



*"Submarine warfare had become much more destructive and far more of a strategic weapon than anything (Admiral) Chester Nimitz has imagined."*  
– Borneman, "The Admirals"

The role of the Philippine Navy is acknowledged more when the evolving security threats in the Armed Forces territorial defense (Asia-Pacific region) arise. Exercising full sovereignty over our territory and protecting our maritime interest necessitate a capability where our armed forces possesses a minimum credible defense posture. It is with strong conviction that no other platform or weapon system can provide the desired effect across the levels of strategic to tactical, except the submarine. The acquisition of submarine warfare capability will better equip us to fulfill our primary mandate on territorial defense, security and stability. Submarines will enhance our maritime defense capability and can effectively carry out anti-access/area denial, maritime surveillance, maritime interdiction, intelligence,

surveillance and reconnaissance.

All those operational requirements can be provided only by a Philippine submarine. The submarine is the most effective ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) platform and the best killing machine in the Navy inventory. Since at the end of the day, the best way to sink a ship is not to place a lot of holes on top, but to put a single huge hole at the bottom, and only a submarine can do that. For the chess players, it is an invisible queen. Everything can be done stealthily.

### RISE OF PHILIPPINE ECONOMY

Many say that purchasing one submarine alone will wreck the Philippine economy. Ubiquity offers strong leverage in case of a crisis



to the Philippine Government. The submarine force creation project will integrate an economical component to stimulate the Philippines' growth. As part of this economical component, the selected proponent could be required to provide the following:

- o Countertrade – The Philippine Government could ask the selected proponent to commit to countertrade with raw materials or natural resources produced locally.

- o Indirect compensation – Some indirect compensation could be required to reinforce the long-term potential of the PN (capability building), with the transfer of technologies or other topics to be negotiated.

- o Direct Compensation – As part of the objectives of long-term autonomy, agility, and reactivity, some direct compensation could be asked to the selected proponent to implement the submarine maintenance and training of the force, which will be the result of the transfer of knowledge and technologies to (and for) Philippine firms, companies SMEs, and most importantly – the FILIPINO WORKFORCE.

Submarine acquisition will help the Philippine economy and not destroy it. One modern diesel-electric submarine costs P34 billion and P1 billion costs for maintenance. If acquisition is signed this year, payment will begin only after 5 years wherein the total cost will be spread over 15 years. Also, financing through soft loan at less than 1% annual interest rate with payments can be extended to 30 years, can be requested with the proponent. His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte/Commander in Chief, AFP supports the submarine acquisition program. According to President Duterte through the DND Spokesperson, "Well, the proposed submarine program at least was given a go by the President. He wants to push our Armed Forces to the forefront, as equal with our neighbors. The President likes the idea of us procuring our own submarine." It is also supported by the Secretary of National Defense stating, "For a nation with maritime territory

especially, (islands), its national defense is incomplete without a submarine."

Undersea warfare capability is one of the Modernization Projects under the Revised AFP Modernization Program and for Other Purposes (RA 10439). It has an impact and contribution on external threats, that even other countries will treat us formidable (offensive and defensive). Protection of our maritime interest, security and stability, and territorial defense will follow if submarine capability will be included in the inventory. Also, it is said that acquisition is a great investment but the gains on the country's security and stability is way greater, thereby contributing to the economic credibility and opportunities for Filipinos. As soon as the platform is established, the construction of facilities and other logistical requirements from the winning proponent will benefit our Filipino workforce because it will create jobs and labor that will generate income for their families.

### SUBMARINE CAPABILITY AS A DETERRENT FORCE

In World War II, submarines were found and sunk because submarines then are noisy, slow, and need to surface, furthermore, submarines (diesel-electric) now (even the 1960's design) are quiet, runs at 20 knots, and can submerge for more than seven days. It is with strong conviction that submarines of today are different and are far better than the old ones. A submarine is a capital ship because it is fitted with a major high-performance combat system and carries powerful weapons that serve as the deterrent force of the country.

The best Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) platform is the submarine hunter-killer itself where it can cover other ASW platform functions/capabilities in hunting and sinking other submarines easily. The submarine capability will provide deterrence against aggressors, credibility to the Philippine Navy, international consideration of the Philippines, and respect to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from other armed forces. Submarines are undetectable

and could be anywhere patrolling around the West Philippines Sea (WPS) or high seas to act firmly if necessary. Having an operational submarine at-sea will be a game-changer for the PN. Regional contenders will have to take into consideration the probability of facing a submarine at anytime, anywhere, without any warning will affect their entire assessment of the tactical situation and their behavior.

The Philippine submarine will be equipped with a large number of heavyweight torpedoes and anti-ship missiles. It can infiltrate an enemy task force to hunt High-Value Units, such as Aircraft Carriers/ Landing Helicopter docks/ Destroyers, and provide decisive superiority with a single lethal hit. The aircraft carrier will not standby/pass near the Philippine water because the Philippine submarine might/could/would be there. It will be the enemies who will turn tail when the Philippine submarine is submerged to hunt and kill. Its objective is to ensure a good level of credibility of the submarine force. Submarine can participate in Joint Operations in protecting our territorial waters. Submarine warfare capability can participate in interoperability Joint Operations – surface, subsurface, amphibious surface, reconnaissance and surveillance. Throughout the operations and engagements, the submarine force can engage in constructive dialogue with other counterparts in the air, land and at sea.

### PROTECTION OF MARITIME INTEREST

Submarines can patrol the oceans - even the world's hostile territory. It allows us to gather intelligence, conduct surveillance and reconnaissance

missions. Submarines will monitor the air, land and sea (both above the surface and below it) to protect the country from security threats. Submarines will be the Philippines force multipliers: compelling foreign militaries to launch numerous vessels in response to the threat of even a single platform.

We need the submarine to protect maritime interest. The effective performance of the AFP on territorial defense will be jump-started by the ultimate deterrent force – the Philippine submarine. Submarines provide the following capabilities:

- o Permanency at sea (in all-weather condition even during typhoons);

- o Difficulty to detect, localize and track (undetected by satellite and electronic warfare disruptions); and

- o Assures undisrupted maritime traffic. Capabilities which cannot be provided by drones.

The next waypoint of the navy is acquiring submarine warfare capability, which will lead into becoming a modern and multi-capable Navy. It will enhance our maritime defense capability that will help us fulfill the primary mandate on territorial defense security, and stability. According to submarine expert HI Sutton, "The Philippines has been considering gaining a submarine capability for many years. The Philippines is rare among Asian navies in not having a submarine capability. Neighboring countries have some of the largest and most potent submarine fleets in the world. And many smaller navies in the region have already started to establish their submarine branches." It's time for the Philippines to establish the submarine capability as the Navy continues to fulfill its mandate more effectively and to keep up with the rapid pace of evolving trends in maritime security and territorial defense. ■



GAD CORNER

BRP TARLAC LD 601

# A Better Gender and Development Organization

By: Mr. Kristoffer James R. Wong, RN  
Administrative Officer IV

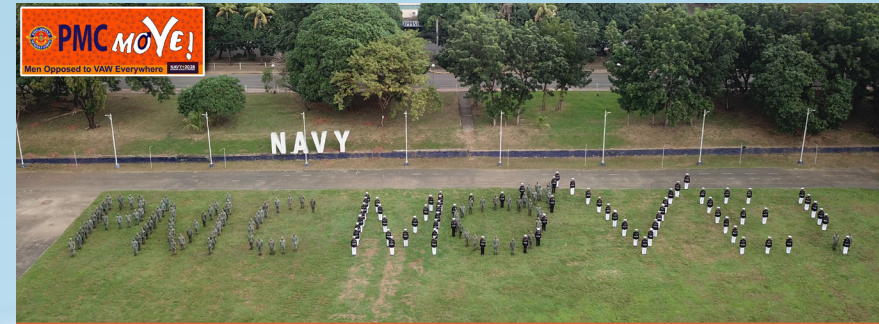
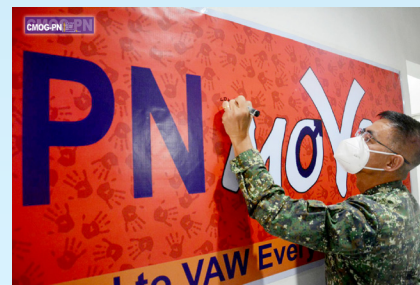


## END VAWC CAMPAIGN

Gender and Development, otherwise known as "GAD" has existed for the better part of almost thirty years in the National Government. With its inception came the realization that we can change as an organization to become more inclusive of the many different types and kinds of people inhabiting our world. It was the realization that GAD was not here to hinder us in any way, but to actually help us to better succeed in accomplishing our shared mission and vision as a military organization to defend and serve the Filipino people.

The Philippine Navy has come a long way in accomplishing its shared Gender Mainstreaming goals with the other Major Services and with the Higher Headquarters. Through teamwork and close coordination with one another and the Philippine Commission on Women, the Philippine Navy leads the way in forging new courses past the unforeseen horizon of the future with regard to GAD. Even though the entire world is suffering collectively because of the COVID-19 pandemic, GAD continues to support and sustain our organization's military personnel and civilian human resources through a variety of initiatives. Some of these initiatives will be felt this year, as the Philippine Navy completes the first year of its ten-year GAD

Agenda and Strategic Framework. However, there are still hindrances that we all must collectively face within the coming years regarding GAD. Our advanced knowledge in law and policy is only limited by the number of critical challenges that continue to cause upheaval within our society such as gender inequality, impunity towards the minority (LGBTQIA+ / Indigenous Peoples to name a few), inadequate human, technical and financial investments through education & training, weak coordination and monitoring mechanisms, insufficient data and research, limited attention to neglected groups and issues, limited scope and coverage of services and interventions, and fragmentation of efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and children. These are the problems we face every day, and for



## MEN OPPOSED TO VAW EVERYWHERE

the next ten years will strongly strive to eradicate from our organization.

GAD has also started to enter the territory of climate change, which remains, forgive the pun, a hot topic for the world government as a whole. As our climate changes and wreaks havoc on a global scale, its impact on the human component is incalculable. Rising oceans will displace people from major cities on the shorelines and continued weather changing patterns such as El Niño and La Niña will affect the global supply of food. RA 9710 has provisions for GAD with concerns centered on climate change, but a real world and purpose driven initiative remain to be seen at this time to curb its impact. Climate change is an unseen factor that will affect billions of lives within the coming decades. It has been proven scientifically, and it is here to stay until we all can provide viable solutions for it.

The Philippine Navy has recently enacted policies that will strengthen and consolidate its GAD Focal Point System (FPS). These new policies clarify the broad and specific duties and responsibilities of the PN GAD FPS as well as its membership. It further clarifies that all PN Units and HPN Staff Offices must work hand in hand with one another to implement the GAD program of the Philippine Navy. Close coordination is the key to solving the many problems that our organization faces with regard

to GAD. One of these initiatives is the establishment of permanent GAD desks / sections / branches within PN Units to ensure the continuity of services in implementing the Gender Mainstreaming initiatives of this organization. Another is the establishment of communication lines from the most junior member to the most senior member of our organization. All of these will only be successful, however, with the complete participation of all military personnel and civilian human resources of our organization.

It is our dream, as the GAD Center of the Philippine Navy, that someday GAD will be culturally accepted by all members within our close knit family of defense and security personnel; that all forms of violence against women and children (VAWC), marginalization, as well as inequality, inequity, and injustice will be eradicated from our everyday lives and consigned to the history books as a rare oddity. But, I can only stress this so much, this can only be achieved with the cooperation of all. ■





## COMMON SAFETY MISTAKES IN THE WORKPLACE

By: Mary Jane M. Oliveros, Civ-HR  
Naval Safety Office



The following are the common mistakes that occur in the workplace resulting in increasing number of accident cases in the Philippine Navy, which include the recommended actions to mitigate the hazards:

- 1) Failure to Identify Hazards – One of the best ways in identifying hazards is to conduct a regular inspection in the AOR.
- 2) Failure to track “Near Misses” – Encourage personnel to report near misses and create a procedure of reporting in collaboration with the workforce. Set a date to review the reported cases and determine actions that need to be undertaken to strengthen the weak areas.
- 3) Lack of visual communications – Establish a safe working environment by providing visual communications in the form of safety signages, labels, floor markings, lights, and other signals.
- 4) Overcomplicating Safety Instructions – Make safety instructions short, precise and straight to the point.
- 5) Non-observance of 6S of Good Housekeeping – Implement strict observance of 6S (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain, and Safety) of good housekeeping in the workplace.
- 6) Improper Usage of Personal Protective Equipment – Implement strict proper wearing of appropriate PPE and conduct safety briefing on the proper usage of the equipment to lessen the risk of the personnel and everyone around them.
- 7) Improper Usage of Working Tools – Conduct safety briefing or tool box meeting (disseminations) regarding the proper handling and usage of tools.
- 8) Improper Handling of Hazardous Materials – Provide labels and data sheet for each material containing the handling procedures and its first aid treatment.
- 9) Lack of effective Safety Training – Units involved should have programmed safety trainings and encourage their personnel to attend the said trainings.
- 10) Non-establishment of safety culture at work – Unit Commanders, Commanding Officers, Heads of office, Officers in Charge, and Safety Officers should be the role models in establishing safety culture at work by displaying a “walk the talk” attitude.
- 11) Being Complacent - Unit Commanders, Commanding Officers, Heads of office, Officers in Charge, and Safety Officers should maintain and enhance the implementation of safety principles at work.
- 12) Negligence of Machine Maintenance and Inspection – Conduct regular machine inspection and maintenance to reduce chances of accidents resulting in damage in property. ■



By: Ms. Hannah Joy D. Alcomendas Civ-HR  
Center for Naval Leadership and Excellence



The year 2021 marks a milestone for the Philippine Navy (PN) as it starts the implementation of its new eight-year organizational development strategy, the PN Strategic Sail Plan 2028. With the new vision: “By 2028, we shall be a modern, multi-capable naval force responsive to our maritime nation’s defense and development,” the PN continues its transformation journey under the Sail Plan, this time with more ambitious goals aiming to fully transform the navy into an operationally environment-driven organization—one that is able to efficiently and effectively respond to the trends, issues, needs, and challenges faced by our maritime nation.

Through the Center for Naval Leadership and Excellence (CNLE), which serves as the strategy management office of the PN, the navy was able to successfully transition its internal systems and processes to align its action plans to the new strategic objectives and initiatives of the organization. Through various command-level Sail Plan activities this year, CNLE made sure that every sailor, marine, civilian human resource, and reservist is on-board the Sail Plan journey. In line with this, the succeeding parts will provide a summary of the said activities:

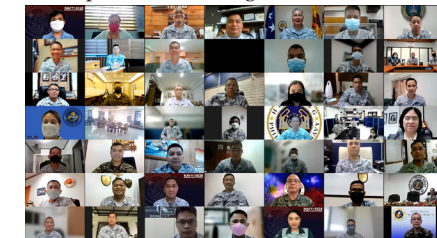
### Creating and Capacitating Champions

#### Sail Plan Officers’ Summit

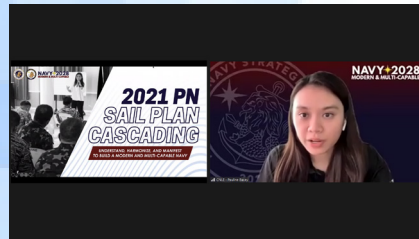
An annual gathering of all Sail Plan Officers and Managers of all PN units and offices, the 2021 Sail Plan Officers’ Summit was held last February 5 through video conferencing. With the theme, “Sailing Towards the New Horizon,” the summit highlighted the need for excellence, good governance and new mindsets to remain at the core of strategy implementation as the PN embarks on its new journey under the new normal. Furthermore, the summit also featured the awarding of the 2020 Best Sail Plan Implementing Award to different HPN Staff offices and PN Units. For the first time, the Best Sail Plan Implementing Staff Award (Diamond Award) was attained by two HPN Staff offices, while the number of Diamond awardees for PN Units has more than doubled from 2018-2019.

#### Sail Plan Boot Camp

Likewise, to create new and continuously capacitate Sail Plan Champions in the organization, the PN



was also able to conduct its annual Sail Plan Boot Camp last May 5 to 7, 2021 via video teleconferencing. Under the theme, “Empowering Sail Plan Champions as Catalysts of Change,” the three-day boot camp featured interactive online activities and lectures which were designed to provide the participants the foundational knowledge and skills needed to be the frontline managers of change and transformation in the PN. More than 300 PN personnel composed of officers, enlisted personnel and civilian human resources across all PN units and offices that are involved in the management of the Sail Plan gathered for the activity.



### Strengthening Partnerships with External Stakeholders

#### PN Board of Advisers Meeting

As a testament of continued partnership between the PN and its Board of Advisers (BoA), two meetings were held in 2021—the first one in March 26 and the other in September 10. Led by the Chairman of the Board, Vice Admiral Eduardo Ma R Santos PN(Ret), the PN BoA reaffirmed their support to the navy through their expert advice and recommendation to the navy’s current and future initiatives. Both meetings paved way for the members to provide strategic advice on areas such as capability development, maximizing foreign engagements, enhancement of strategic communications efforts, and giving due importance to research and technological advancements even amidst the pandemic.

#### Best Practice Sharing

Furthermore, to ensure that the PN sustains its strong relationship and enrich its knowledge base of best practices, the navy was able to engage with its fellow National Government Agencies and/or partners in transformation. For 2021, the PN conducted several best practice sharing activities with the Philippine Air Force’s (PAF) Strategy Management Office last February 10 and with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) last February 16 and August 18. Valuable insights were gained and new partnerships were developed, proving that external relations are integral in ensuring that the navy continuously strives to be better and remains on track in achieving its vision.

### Institutionalizing Good Governance

#### PN Governance Forum

Under the theme, “Starting our Journey towards a Modern and Multi-Capable Navy,” the 2021 PN Governance Forum Series focused on the commencement of the PN’s new era of transformation under the Sail Plan 2028 through the highlighting of its new vision. The four (4) legs of the forum underscored a wide range of timely and relevant topics concerning the navy and our maritime nation. The speakers and topics featured were: 1) Dr. Lizan E. Perante-Calina, Dean of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management of the Development Academy of the Philippines, for the topic “Modern Mindset in a Modern Organization”; 2) Dr. Ronald U. Mendoza, Dean of the School of Government of the Ateneo De Manila University, for the topic “Towards Inclusive Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic”; 3) Dr. Jay L. Batongbacal, Director of the University of the Philippines Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea, for the topic “West Philippine Sea: History, Developments and Relevance to our Maritime Nation”; and 4) Undersecretary Gloria Jumamil-Mercado, PhD MNSA of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Streamlining of Government Processes for the topic “The Role of the Military in Sustainable Development.”

#### Sail Plan Cascading

On the other hand, to enhance the alignment of each PN unit and staff to the headquarters level and ensure the proper implementation of the Sail Plan, CNLE conducted a virtual Sail Plan Cascading to all 33 HPN Staff offices and 22 PN Units last June 16 to 18 and June 30 June to July 2, respectively. Set under the theme “Understand, Harmonize,

and Manifest to Build a Modern, Multi-Capable Navy,” the 2021 cascading emphasized the crucial role of individual capacities, interconnectedness, and commitment in the success of the Sail Plan 2028. The three-day cascading was composed of a virtual governance coaching to strengthen leadership buy-in to the strategy; lectures to increase the knowledge and appreciation of participants on the new Sail Plan; and virtual breakout sessions to ensure the alignment of offices and units to the FOIC, PN Balanced Scorecard 2021-2028.

### Maintaining a Standard of Excellence

#### Best Sail Plan Implementing Evaluation and Award

Recognizing that maintaining a standard and culture of excellence is integral in effective management and implementation of the Sail Plan, CNLE successfully conducted the virtual evaluation activities for the 2021 Best Sail Plan Implementing Award to all HPN Staff offices and PN Units. The 2021 Sail Plan evaluation, which was also the first under the new Sail Plan 2028, was modified to ensure the safety of all PN personnel, as well as to consider the newly cascaded systems within different offices and units. Evaluation activities include Strategy Management Documents Check and the Strategy Management Team Survey. In lieu of the Focus Group Discussion and Executive Interviews which were part of the previous years’ evaluation, the Strategy Management Team Survey was conducted to provide a data-based and qualitative measure of the following factors: support of the leadership, the ownership and accountability of the command team, and the knowledge and appreciation of the members of the different HPN Staff offices and PN



Units. Lastly, the parameters remain anchored on the SFO Framework which are as follows: 1) Enabler Systems and Processes Present; 2) Strategy Alignment and Awareness Tools; and 4) Reporting and Monitoring Systems and Tools. The result of the evaluation will continue to serve as the Sail Plan assessment rating of the HPN Staff and PN Units for the Annual General Inspection and as basis for the awarding of the 2021 Best Sail Plan Implementing Staff and Unit Awards. The awarding will be held during the 2022 Sail Plan Officers’ Summit.

### Ensuring a Responsive Strategy

#### Sail Plan Strategy Review

To ensure the strategy remains responsive to the changes within and outside the organization and to evaluate the responsiveness of the FOIC, PN Balanced Scorecard vis-à-vis the evolving needs of the navy to accomplish its mission effectively and efficiently while achieving more strategic breakthroughs, the PN conducted its Sail Plan Review for 2021 last November 9, December 2 and 7 through video teleconferencing. The 2021 review focused on assessing the responsiveness of measures and initiatives found in FOIC, PN BSC 2021-2028 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which included identification of issues in strategy execution and possible courses of action to ensure target achievement in the succeeding year.

As the PN’s North Star in achieving its vision, the Sail Plan milestones this year serve as a testament that the PN will continuously develop and transform despite the challenges and uncertainties along the way. Sailing full speed ahead towards its new vision of becoming a modern and multi-capable naval force for our maritime nation, every sailor, marine, and civilian human resource of the PN will continue to serve with excellence and guided by the navy values of honor, dedication, patriotism, solidarity, leadership and professionalism. ■





By: Engr John Marc B Delgado CivHR  
 Ms Angela Patricia Marie M Directo, Rpm CCE  
 Naval Research and Technology Development Center

In achieving its mission of “defending the sovereignty of the country,” it is in no doubt that the Philippine Navy is driven to provide defense assets that will protect the country’s interest and maritime territory. Upon the PN’s entry to the second horizon of its modernization program, it is slowly nearing its vision to become a “stronger and more credible navy” through the arrival of modern assets that is set to enhance the country’s defense capability.

Aside from acquisition of modern assets, the PN is also bound to re-establish an in-country technology development capability as part of its modernization program. It realized that sans the support from overseas defense providers, the improvements of its assets and programs must be done accordingly. Hence, the outright berth of the revitalization of its Self-Reliant Defense Posture (SRDP) Program.

### The Birth of the SRDP Program

Independence for a country has always been viewed as having the freedom to do what one thinks is right, having unrestricted access to its own territory, and having the power of self-determination attributed to will. It can also be viewed as having the capability to be not overly dependent on foreign suppliers in terms of its materiel needs, thereby limiting the control and influence of foreign entities to the decision making of a particular country. The SRDP has been initiated for this purpose to

kickstart the complete independence of the Philippines to foreign providers of defense materials and equipment.

Made into law in 1974, the SRDP aims to foster unilateral defense capacity by developing and maintaining an in-country capability to manufacture selected defense materiel. With the vast Filipino innovations present, the country prospects to create strong and credible naval warfare and defense weapons, equipment, and system such as small arms, radios, and assorted ammunition, to name a few (Lazo & Mercader, n.d.). The program envisioned the attainment of local production capability for war materiel while conserving foreign exchange and, in the process, spur industrial and economic growth. Ultimately, the SRDP should elicit the country’s innovative capabilities as it will be made by the Filipinos, for the Filipinos.



### Call for Action

According to the study on “Conceptual Framework of Defense Innovation,” defense analyst Tai Ming Cheung (2021) suggests seven categories of factors in defense innovation system: (1) Catalytic factors that spark

innovation which may be through novel technology innovations such as those developed by high-competitive naval organizations; (2) Contextual factors which attribute essential scope of information that justified the need for technology innovation; (3) Input factors or “material, financial, technological and other significant contributions” that contribute in the defense innovation system; (4) Organizations and other factors which serve as the “source of action” of defense innovation; (5) Networks and sub-systems which provide support in allocating research and other resources in defense innovation system; (6) Institutional factors which are “rules, laws, routines, norms, and established practices and strategies that regulate the defense innovation system, and; (7) Output factors which “determines the nature of the products” and its role or influence to its end-users.

### An Innovative Response

Through its myriad of efforts to attain its full SRDP capability, the PN is able to fill the above-mentioned category of factors. To name a few, the PN includes leadership support on strategic defense research and technology development concepts; ample budgeting for research and technology development through the AFP Modernization Program and enhancement of organizational resources for technology development; establishment and involvement of the Philippine Navy Modernization Office and the Naval Research and Technology Development Center in the conceptualization, programming, and implementation of defense technology innovation; launching of partnership among academes, government agencies and local industries as support to implementation; and creation of defense capability roadmaps of various technology development pursuits which include the prospective production and maintenance of locally-developed defense technologies for the benefit of its stakeholders.

With proper planning, programming, and utilization of the aforementioned factors for technology innovation, the PN may achieve promising innovation outcomes such as creative imitation, creative adaptation, and crossover

imitation of foreign technology transfers, and incremental innovation of novel defense technology concepts.

### NRTDC and the PN SRDP

Understanding its role as the primary research arm of the PN, the NRTDC continuously put labors to deliver innovations and services towards the mission accomplishment of the Naval Sea Systems Command and the whole PN in general.

Each SRDP project is supported by a certain level of research and development in order to assess and evaluate feasibility and its potential impact to the operations of the navy. Currently, there are a total of seven ongoing SRDP projects and an additional six proposals for PN SRDP under the AFPSEO programming. These projects focus on (1) Space-based technologies (Maritime ISR and communications); (2) Development of unmanned systems for various applications (Maritime ISR, Communications, Combat, etc.); (3) Development of C4ISR technologies for cyberspace and information dominance; and (4) Ship design and sustainment. Moreover, the Center is currently working hand-in-hand with its academe and industry partners to provide technology development related trainings while at the same time endeavoring to sustainably develop more assets and systems for the PN.

The revitalization of the SRDP program proves the commitment of the PN to secure and protect the national sea territories from all forms of threats. As such, NRTDC is committed to fulfill its mandates as the R&D arm of the PN as the Navy envisions itself to be a modern and multi-capable, and credible naval force. ■

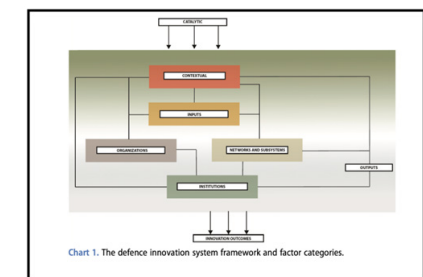


Chart 1. The defence innovation system framework and factor categories.



## NAVY SERVES: TABANG PALAWAN, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO



By: CDR JOBINA ANTONIA S BESA PN



The geographical location of the Philippines has already assured the country of being hit by major storms every year, especially in its last quarter. The past years have already tested the country's toughness in rising and recovering from the worse effects of different disasters that struck us.

Typhoon Odette happened recently, a week before the celebration of the holidays. In the Philippines, Odette is like the usual typhoon that brought torrential rains, strong winds, and landslides.

The country's location made

us used to these kinds of disasters affecting at least 3 million people in 400 municipalities and cities of Palawan, Visayas, and Mindanao, causing injuries, deaths, extensive damage to both private and public properties, and infrastructures (roads, bridges, seaports, and airports). Typhoon Odette has also caused uprooted trees, destroyed plants, and agricultural lands, torn down communication/power lines, and damaged houses.

Both civilians and uniformed personnel reach out to the locals of affected provinces.



Our Headquarters Civil-Military Operations Group of the Philippine Navy sensed how our fellow Filipinos, through our stakeholders persist in sending their support to the worst-hit areas of Palawan, Surigao, Siargao, Leyte, Bohol, Dumaguete, and Cebu. Though they don't personally know those affected people, I could say that the spirit of Christmas has been felt receiving the influx of delivered goods in our headquarters.

I have also personally witnessed how our Navy personnel from different Navy units perform their respective roles and give their best contribution "day and night" in ensuring aids are reaching our "kababayan." Our roles came both in big or small, but with

a common objective of helping our communities in need in this hardest time. It has also come to my realization that the COVID-19 pandemic did not create a barrier for every Navy personnel in ensuring tasks are done and executed.

Stakeholders coming from different government agencies, various business entities, and other organizations have greatly lent a helping hand by consistently establishing linkage and cooperation with our unit bringing their donations for the affected communities.

The Philippine Navy, along with other branches of service, reservists, and the OCD has sent various transportation assets to undertake the transport of our goods to those affected areas, making it on the celebration of Christmas and New Year feast.


But up to this moment, the "malasakit" and "bayanihan" have remained strong in the hearts of every Filipino people. As an Officer of the Philippine Navy, helping our fellow Filipinos and seeing them recover from a painful and tragic experience is one of the most heartwarming gestures as we go on with the Naval service. ■







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