



VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 3 | 2019

DEFENSE CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE



FULLY EQUIPPED

PHL NAVY ACQUIRES
FRIGATE
PH-ROK 22ND JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING

ROTC UPDATES
IRR ON LAW PROTECTING
CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

PH- JAPAN DEFENSE
MINISTERIAL MEETING
PMA CLASS OF 2019

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NAVY'S FIRST EVER STATE-OF-THE-ART FRIGATE LAUNCHED

The first of two newly acquired frigates of the Philippine Navy (PN) took to the water for the first time on May 23, 2019, in a ceremony held at Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) shipyard in Ulsan, South Korea.

“From the time I signed the contract for the Frigate Acquisition Project with HHI in 2018, I have earnestly looked forward to this significant milestone in the acquisition timeline of the Philippine Navy’s very first frigate,” Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana said in his speech which was read by Undersecretary Raymundo DV Elefante.

The 351 by 46-foot frigate will be delivered to the Philippines in the latter part of 2020 and will be christened BRP Jose Rizal once it enters service with the PN. A Keel Laying Ceremony was also held during the same event to formally signal the start of construction for the second vessel. This frigate is expected to see service in the first quarter of 2021 and shall be named BRP Antonio Luna.

The decision memorandum for the procurement of two missile-capable frigates under the Frigate Acquisition Project was issued in October 2015. Hyundai Heavy Industries was selected as the lowest bidder with a bid price of PHP15.75 billion in June 2016.

In October 2016, the contract agreement for the FAP was signed by Secretary Lorenzana as Head of Procuring Entity (HOPE), and Mr. Kisun Chung, Vice President/Owner of HHI.

“The frigates we are acquiring will serve as a shining symbol of our people who come from a proud race of seafarers, and boost our ability to defend our seas and territories. They will also manifest our country’s march toward real independence and self-determination,” Secretary Lorenzana added.

The two frigates will be the first ever PN warships that are capable of conducting Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Electronic Warfare

(EW) Operations. These ships will be fully equipped with Surface to Air and Surface to Surface Missiles, torpedoes, launchers and weapon systems for four-dimensional warfare.

The defense chief concluded his message by saying, **“As this project is currently the biggest ongoing cooperation program between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, I know that both the Filipino and Korean people are excitedly looking forward to the successful completion and delivery of our two frigates, in full anticipation of more fruitful partnerships in the future.”**

Each frigate has a complement of more than a hundred officers and crew. It has a flight deck towards the stern with the ability to handle one maritime helicopter weighing up to 12t. A hangar will also be fitted to accommodate the helicopter. Two rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIB) will be carried to conduct military and emergency operations at sea. 

Frigate photos by: Navy Public Affairs Office



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FAITHFUL AND STEADFAST

There will always be times when a head of state's faithfulness to the constitution and the state will be questioned by some individuals, groups or quarters. What is fundamental for us at the One Defense Team is that without any doubt, we are committed to remain faithful and that we shall never renege on our loyalty and sworn duties to our country and to the Filipino people.

As we remain steadfast in the pursuit of our role as defender of the state, we press on with the modernization of our armed forces. By 2021, for example, the Philippines shall have its two frigates – the Philippine Navy's first ever warships that are capable of conducting Anti-Air Warfare (AAW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASUW), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Electronic Warfare (EW) Operations. These ships will be fully equipped with Surface to Air and Surface to Surface Missiles, torpedoes, launchers and weapon systems for four-dimensional warfare.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said that these frigates boost our ability to defend our seas and territories. They will also manifest our country's march toward real independence and self-determination.

While some Filipinos have doubts and fears over the country's enhanced relations with China, some of the articles here would show that the Philippines is pursuing an independent and principled foreign policy, not just with China but with other nations as well. Our bilateral relations with countries with whom we have long standing friendships remain strong and robust if not progressive. This issue of the Defense Chronicle have examples of our defense cooperation with other countries such as the defense ministerial meeting of the Philippines and Japan, and the Philippines and the Republic of Korea's 22nd Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Logistics and Defense Industry Cooperation.

We also strengthen our commitment for and with the youth of the land. We continue to work for the reinstatement of mandatory ROTC as this will help instill love of country, good citizenship, respect for human rights, and adherence to the rule of law among the future leaders of this nation. The strength of an empowered Filipino youth with sense of duty and service, discipline, and leadership will surely help sustain the faithfulness of the Filipino people. 



A CREDIBLE DEFENSE ORGANIZATION,
A RELIABLE PARTNER IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND A STRATEGIC PLAYER IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION



Undersecretary for Finance and Materiel Raymundo DVElefante and the Republic of Korea's Vice Minister of Defense Acquisition Program Administration Han Myung Jin at the signing of Arrangement to Amend MOU on Logistics and Defense Industry Cooperation.

DND-AFP HOSTS THE PH-ROK 22ND JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Philippines and the Republic of Korea (PH-ROK) 22nd Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on Logistics and Defense Industry Cooperation was held on June 10, 2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay, Manila.

This year's JCM was hosted by the Philippines, with the Department of National Defense and Armed Forces of the Philippines as lead agencies. It was participated in by DND and AFP officials, officers, and personnel, as well as representatives from the Republic of Korea.

Assistant Secretary for Logistics and Acquisition Jesus Rey Avilla, who served as the co-chairperson of the Philippines panel, opened the ceremony and introduced the agenda of the meeting.

The meeting between the two countries aimed to strengthen and address issues on its cooperation regarding logistical and defense matters, such as amendment on the agreement; procurement supply; acquisition and transfer of equipment; and government-to-government projects.

Subsequently, various Korean defense companies, like Hyundai and Hanwha, presented their military and defense products and services. Representatives from the respective technical working groups of Philippine Army, Philippine Navy, and Philippine Air Force asked questions and provided comments on the presentations.

The meeting was concluded with the signing of the Arrangement to Amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Logistics and Defense Industry Cooperation and the exchanging of

mementos between Undersecretary for Finance and Materiel Raymundo D.V. Elefante and Republic of Korea's Vice Minister of Defense Acquisition Program Administration Han Myung Jin.

"With the signing of the Arrangement to Amend the MOU will support its main purpose, which is to strengthen the support capabilities of the Armed Forces of both parties by expanding and enhancing cooperation in logistics, and to promote cooperation in the defense industries," USEC Elefante said.



ROT C U P D A T E S

PRRD CALLS FOR PRIORITIZATION OF ROTC BILL AT THE SENATE

Empowering the youth in nation-building and strengthening the reserve component of the country's defense, the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) inches closer to revival through the approved House Bill 8961 on its third and final reading in the House of Representatives on 20 May 2019.

The reintroduced ROTC integrates civil-military training, nationalism, history, and disaster preparedness in the curriculum of Grades 11 and 12 in public and private educational institutions, thus ensuring the accomplishment of its ultimate goal—instilling love of country among the Filipino youth.

The Department of National Defense welcomed the approval of House Bill 8961 to emphasize the ROTC's importance in the inclusion of young Filipino citizens in protecting the country. The reinstatement of mandatory ROTC in Grades 11 and 12 aims to harness patriotism, good citizenship, respect for human rights, and adherence to the rule of law.

The Department extended its gratitude to the legislators for making the youth their priority.

"I am greatly delighted by the passage of the ROTC bill in the House. Hopefully the Senate will also pass it during this Congress so that we can start implementing it this coming school year,"

Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana said after receiving the news.

With the success of implementing the ROTC program still on its way at the Senate, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte certified the Senate version of the ROTC bill (Senate Bill No. 2232) as a priority. In a letter addressed to the Senate President, President Duterte called for the immediate enactment of the bill **"to restore basic military and leadership trainings for the youth in order to invigorate their sense of nationalism and patriotism necessary in defending the State and to further promote their vital role in nation-building."**

The combined commitments of all the involved stakeholders in the effective reinstatement of ROTC shall expand the role of the government and the youth in defending the Philippines and securing its overall development. **DD**

KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON THE PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2022 CHAPTERS ON PEACE AND SECURITY HELD

Different government agencies from the security/law enforcement sector have gathered for the Knowledge Sharing for the Updating of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 Chapters on Peace and Security held at the Executive Lounge, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Ortigas Center, Pasig City on May 9, 2019.

The program showcased series of presentation from primary law enforcement and development agencies that have key roles in the Peace and Security chapter of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, which emphasizes that security is imperative in achieving sustainable development.

Representatives from NEDA, the National Security Council (NSC), the Department of National Defense (DND), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) have shared significant updates and overview of the following key matters:

- National Security Policy and National Security Strategy;
- National Defense Policy;
- West Philippine Sea
- Transnational Crime, focusing on cybercrime, trafficking in persons, and waste trafficking;
- National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC);
- Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) for former rebels (FRs) by Task Force Balik Loob;
- Strengthening Peace and Order Councils;
- National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism;
- National Task Force Call to Action regarding infiltration of communist terrorist groups (CTGs); and
- Crafting of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022.

To augment the milestones of the government towards promoting development and establishing long-lasting peace, the speakers have shared key insights and informative discussion on policies, programs, and plans to address both traditional and non-traditional threats in the country while promoting the significance of good governance and inter-agency coordination. One of the highlighted government efforts is the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) for the rebel returnees or former members of communist terrorist groups (CTGs).

Ms. Beatrice Enguerra of the Task Force Balik Loob, Department of National Defense,

introduced and explained the principles of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) for former rebels (FRs) as one of the strategic ways of the government to reduce the number of armed groups. Ms Enguerra enumerated the benefits provided for the rebel returnees, and further explained the difference and similarities between CLIP and E-CLIP, difference of E-CLIP from other reintegration programs of the government such as Balik-Baril (1986-2008), Social Integration Program (2008-2013), and Guns for Peace Program (2013-2014). She also then shared the accomplishments of the E-CLIP and further emphasized the significant role of

all participating agencies in the successful implementation of the program.

E-CLIP is the flagship program of the Duterte administration that seeks to effect social hearing and national unity through a whole-of-nation approach towards the higher objective of having just and lasting peace. It provides social equity to former members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and the Militia ng Bayan by devising a different modality of providing benefits and services to the former rebels (FRs), in order to re-integrate them into mainstream society. These benefits do not serve as an end, but rather a means to aid the FRs in securing a foothold in re-starting their lives. 



DSWD Undersecretary for Inclusive and Sustainable Peace Rene Glen Paje speaking at the orientation workshop on Executive Order No. 70

WORKSHOP FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 70 KICKS OFF

As part of its efforts to enhance the capability and knowledge of its personnel regarding their vital role in the “Whole-of-Nation Approach” in ending the local communist armed conflict in the country, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) kicked off its three-day Orientation-Workshop on the Executive Order No. 70 s. 2018.

The workshop, which commenced on June 3, 2019, in Quezon City, primarily aims to gather selected representatives from different offices, bureaus, services, and field offices of the Department to facilitate the crafting of its corresponding Implementing Plan towards the creation of the National Task Force on Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC);

In his speech, DSWD Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista showed his unwavering support and sheer will in empowering the Department’s undertakings and initiatives by sustaining peace and social development programs in conflict-vulnerable and affected communities to help end the local communist armed conflict.

The workshop included a comprehensive introduction and elaborative discussion about the Executive Order No. 70 and the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP). LTCOL Joel Jonson of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) gave a comprehensive presentation about the Executive Order No. 70 or the institutionalization of Whole-of-Nation approach in defeating the local communist terrorist groups (CTGs) in the country.

LTCOL Jonson argued that military solution or disruption of the enemy’s military line is just one of the many components in ending insurgency, hence he emphasized the need for a shift from military-centric approach to civilian-led approach, utilizing the government’s instrumentalities and private sector stakeholders to finally put a stop to the five (5) decade-long battle with communist terrorist groups.

The Whole-of-Nation Approach signifies the importance of attaining inclusive and sustainable peace thus the government also implements E-CLIP, the government’s flagship program, administered by Task Force Balik-Loob, to synchronize all efforts for the reintegration of the rebel returnees or former members of the communist terrorist groups, Communist Party of the Philippines

(CPP), New People’s Army (NPA), National Democratic Front (NDF), and Militia ng Bayan, into mainstream society.

LTCOL Aristotle Antonio, Acting Head of the Task Force Balik Loob Secretariat, likewise gave an informative discussion regarding updates on the implementation of the program and its accomplishments such as the establishment of halfway houses or “Happy Home”. LTCOL Antonio further addressed the need for government agencies and local government units to strengthen convergence and inter-agency coordination, the need for stronger implementation of the program, monitoring mechanism, and having effective strategic communications in target communities.

At the end of the program, DSWD Assistant Secretary for Luzon Affairs Jose Anton Hernandez and Undersecretary Rene Glen O. Paje emphasized that the major key to the success of all programs is good governance. By profoundly fulfilling the sworn duties and responsibilities as public servants, the programs of the Department can be a decisive tool for the demise of insurgency.

The second and third days of the workshop focused on crafting of the corresponding Implementing Plans for the goals of NTF-ELCAC. 

INTERNSHIP AS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY: LEARNING AND INNOVATION



Participants in the Government Internship Program of the DND assigned to the Public Affair Service were assigned to write a piece for this issue of the Defense Chronicle on their experience and learning as interns. Below is their article.

Taking little steps and slowly building your foundation for the future - Every successful person started as a beginner before they became experts.

Being an intern is both an honor and a privilege to have before becoming a part of the workforce. Learning the basics and the way people do their work is a way to gain knowledge, skills and experience. Such learnings can equip you before entering the field that you desire. In a short span of time, can a Government Internship Program (GIP) provide the proper knowledge, skills and experience to their interns?

The Department of National Defense (DND) conducted the GIP from April to May 2019. The program provides opportunities for young adults to use their knowledge and skills in performing tasks, gain exposure to government operations and in their possible respective fields of work, and prepare them for their eventual entry into the workforce. After the examination and interview during the application process, the selected interns were oriented by the GIP Committee on the proper decorum within DND, as well as briefed on the aims, vision and mission of the internship program.

As the interns assigned to the Public Affairs Service (PAS), we learned that there are far more issues that the government is solving, such as addressing the local communist armed conflict. We learned about the peace initiatives of the government like the localized peace talks. Through the program, we gained information and learned the context of the issue. As the internship experience helped mould our minds, even after finishing the program and moving on with our lives, we take the experience as an opportunity to also be among the spokespersons for the peace programs of the government, such as Task Force Balik-Loob.

Indeed, from April to May, we learned new tactics and were able to fully maximize our skills, gain new knowledge, and gain exposure. Furthermore, the GIP also allowed the interns to build a good camaraderie as we work with our fellow interns for two consecutive months. Aside from obtaining knowledge on how the government faces different societal issues inside and outside the country, the interns also gained genuine friendship which helped build our confidence in socializing with other people, most especially with their co-workers and superiors.

Also during the program, we acquired the essence of conveyance - that communication comes with critical thinking. As interns assigned to PAS, we learned to believe that a man can never communicate well without analyzing and assessing a particular situation. This is what we have learned from our seniors who firmly believed that their interns have potential particularly in the field of disseminating accurate information to the public. Evidently, the program has built the competency of its participants at a very young age.

On May 31, 2019, the interns finished the two-month Government Internship Program of the Department of National Defense. Conceivably, the young adults who underwent the program will use their working experience as they took on their future working paths, striving for just governance and a peaceful society we all aim to have. ☐



PHILIPPINES, JAPAN HOLD DEFENSE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN TOKYO

Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana held talks with Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya on 17 April 2019 in Tokyo. Secretary Lorenzana's official visit to Tokyo is the latest manifestation of the continued robust relations between the Philippines and Japan. As Japan pioneers the Reiwa era, Secretary Lorenzana reaffirmed the Department of National Defense (DND)'s commitment to contributing in strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries towards advancing shared principles of peace, security, and growth through the implementation of the 2015 Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges.

Both sides welcomed increasing cooperation at all levels across Major Services and agreed to deepen exchanges in the areas of humanitarian assistance and disaster response between ground forces, ship repair and maintenance between maritime forces,

and professional airmanship between air forces. They also agreed to bolster cooperation in terms of capacity building, as well as defense industry and logistics. Secretary Lorenzana expressed appreciation for the turn-over of five (5) TC-90 aircraft and UH-1H spare parts and maintenance equipment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) from the Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF)'s. At the multilateral level, both defense chiefs attached great importance to pursuing practical cooperation through the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus framework, which is the highest defense consultative and cooperative mechanism between ASEAN and eight (8) of its Dialogue Partners. Secretary Lorenzana welcomed the goodwill visit of JSDF's largest destroyer, JS Izumo, in July 2019 and looked forward to the DND's hosting of the 6th Philippines-Japan Vice Ministers' Defense Dialogue this year. 



DND JOINS SIGNING OF IRR ON LAW PROTECTING CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11888 or the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act was signed during a ceremony held in Quezon City on June 4, 2019.

Representing Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, Undersecretary for Defense Policy Ricardo A. David, Jr. joined the signing of the IRR for the law that is a potent tool to protect children in situations of armed conflict, particularly those in Mindanao.

The law, which was signed on January 10, 2019, covers all children below 18 years old who are involved in, affected by, or displaced by armed conflicts. It seeks to protect children in situations of armed conflict (CSAC) from all forms of abuse, violence, cruelty and discrimination.

Children in Situations of Armed Conflict are those children who are members of displaced families, physically weakened, orphaned or disabled, combatants and those mobilized for other armed conflict-related activities and disrupted from schooling, due to armed conflict.

In the Philippines alone, the UNICEF estimated that 30,000-50,000 children in the Philippines are displaced every year as a result of armed conflict. Children are recruited and forced to become soldiers due to the fact that they can be easily manipulated and that their innocence are being abused.

Members of the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (IAC-CSAC), chaired by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), are the Department of National Defense (DND),

Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Department of Justice. [DC](#)



(Fourth from left) DND Undersecretary Ricardo A. David, Jr., along with other representatives of member agencies, holds a copy of the IRR of RA 11888 or the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act during a signing ceremony held in Quezon City.



DUTERTE: REMAIN FAITHFUL TO YOUR MISSION

“Remain faithful to your mission. Be a good soldier who will serve the Constitution, protect the people, secure our sovereignty, and preserve the integrity of our national territory.”

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte reminded the graduating cadets to remain loyal and devoted to their duty as he delivered his keynote speech as Guest of Honor and Speaker during the graduation of the Mandirigma ng Bayan Lakas at Sarili Ialay para sa Kapayapaan (MABALASIK) Class of 2019 of the Philippine Military Academy on May 26, 2019.

“Embody courage and loyalty as you pursue your noble career,” President Duterte said.

“Serve your country well. Die for your country if needed. Remember the young Filipinos yet to come, the children and those who are now studying. Huwag niyong kalimutan ‘yan,” the Commander-in-Chief added.

Among the 261 out of the 263 cadets of Mabalasik Class 2019 allowed to graduate, Cadet 1st Class Dionne Mae Apolog Umalla graduated as the class valedictorian.

Umalla was the fifth female cadet to graduate as class valedictorian since the academy started accepting women.

“While I may not have achieved my dreams of becoming a doctor or a teacher... I realized that I only wanted one thing, to serve my people at all costs. I have achieved that dream today, we all have,” Umalla said in her valedictory address.

“We became not what we wanted but what we needed to be,” Umalla added.

Umalla received 14 special awards including the Presidential Saber for finishing on top of the class, the Philippine Navy Saber, Distinguished cadet award (Starman), Academic group award, Humanities plaque, Management plaque, Social Sciences plaque, Natural Sciences plaque, Computing and Information Sciences plaque, Department of leadership plaque, the Joint United States Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) award, Australian Defense best overall performance, Spanish Armed Forces award, and the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) award.

Photos by: Presidential Communications Operations Office

President Rodrigo R. Duterte graced the graduation ceremony of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 2019 *Mabalasik* on May 26, 2019, at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City.



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