



AGFO NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 23 - 1

AGFO INVITES NEW REGULAR MEMBERS



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ARTICLES/CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AGFO PUBLICATION

Members who wish to publish their articles in this Newsletter may send their contributions to the AGFO Center in person or through the following email address: assnofgenerals@yahoo.com. The opinions expressed by the writers are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect those of AGFO.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With high hopes and good vibes the Association welcomed 2023 after successful celebration of past year's Christmas Party attended by 77 members at Tejeros Hall, AFPCOC. The new board laid down the organizational thrusts and prepared the annual budget.

As provided by our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, advocacy to preserve and defend the Constitution and advancing the morale, welfare and well-being of the men in uniform, active and retired, remain as the top priority of the Association. Attracting new members and assisting the Association members in their administrative and personal needs whenever possible comes next. Another priority is to upkeep and update the AGFO Center facilities to serve as a venue for fellowship, academic discussions, medical missions and similar activities.



On advocacy, we have issued a statement that was published in some newspapers on March 26 supporting the government's position to establish additional EDCA sites in Cagayan (Sta Ana and Lal-lo), Isabela (Gamu) and Palawan (Balabac). These EDCA sites would strengthen the US-PH alliance to address defense and security challenges and enhance capability for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance.

Group of PH Generals backs 4 more EDCA Sites



According to the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Inc (AGFO), EDCA is one of the mechanisms designed to bolster the alliance between the US and the Philippines under the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty. This 2014 Agreement allows the rotation, not permanent stay, of US troops in mutually agreed locations where our ally could use temporary facilities: the AGFO said in a statement issued on Saturday.

To protect and advance the welfare of our veterans and other retirees we have been working with VAdm Ariston Delos Reyes, an AGFO member, as regard pension reforms being deliberated by Congress. While some leading government financial managers oppose the lower house version that maintains non-contributory scheme and full indexation, as proposed by AFP-DND leadership except for the new entrants, AGFO believes that the Senate will support the lower house. Admiral Delos Reyes was also instrumental in the upward adjustment of MUP salaries in 2018 and the AGFO Board earlier passed a resolution commending his efforts.

The bulk of the Association's activities is focused on members' physical and mental well-being, as well as enticing new members. We admitted 36 new members since the start of the year led by LGen Raymundo Ferrer, former OCD Administrator, who joined on January 3. The numerous news articles published here describes the different activities that our members participated in. From courtesy calls and visits to sports, caravans and in-house forums all geared towards avoiding mental and physical entropy.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont...)

Not covered by the other articles are similar activities conducted by the Association. In April, 3 BOT members- VAdm Marayag, MGen Gerardo Layug and BGen Resty Aguilar-joined the 81st anniversary of Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor) in Mount Samat commemorating the Fall of Bataan. We also replaced during the month the old and unserviceable computer and printer in preparation of AGFO website installation. In May, AGFO President personally presented the AGFO Award to PMA Cadet Rico Jay Fernandez for garnering the highest rating in all leadership courses in the Class of 2023. In June, the Association assisted the AGFO Foundation in the conduct of anti-flu vaccination that benefited 66 members, 156 dependents and 53 other individuals. In July, the Association, on the suggestion of BGen Danilo Fabian, solicited voluntary donations totaling Php145,000 from the members to help defray the medical expenses of BGen Emmanuel Cayton who was initially hospitalized in a private hospital and later transferred to VMMC. LGen Oscar Rabena handed the donation to BGen Cayton's wife. In August, we donated a wheelchair, courtesy of Commo Amado Sanglay, to PCG Captain Juancho Maraño. The item was received by VAdm Edmund Tan, former PCG Commandant, who brought it to VMMC.



To keep abreast with AFP modernization, LGen Oscar Rabena coordinated with MGEN JEFFREY HECHANNOVA PAF, incumbent J5, AFP for an update briefing attended by the BOT in early September. J5 revealed that the modernization schedule is on track. He also stressed the importance of allies and friends in the AFP capability upgrade. We invited in this occasion MGen Melchor Rosales who is strongly advocating the reshaping of the AFP operational plan in view of the weakening of the local communist movement and the frequent harassment of the Chinese seagoing elements in West Philippine Sea, including Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), and other maritime areas within our EEZ and ECS. The Chairman also received in late September COL JOSELITO LOPENA PAF, newly-assumed Chief, AFP-PGMC and his staff who paid a courtesy call and identified areas of possible cooperation to hasten pension services for AGFO members and other retirees. A signal officer, COL LOPENA's immediate task is to cleanse the pensioners' list and institute a robust pension management system to preserve the integrity of the data and prevent delays in the distribution of individual pension.

Lastly, we wish to announce the following: 1. 4th quarter AGFO Forum and AGFO Website launching are scheduled on October 17, 2023; 2. Annual Membership Meeting and Election of 5 BOT members and Association President is set on November 24 (Friday); and 3. AGFO Christmas Party will be in mid-December. ⚓

AGFO WELCOMES NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

AGFO has welcomed 36 new regular members into its folds since January this year. MGEN Gerardo Layug, Membership Committee Chairman, said the number of applicants and admitted members increased because of incessant efforts of the Committee and the lifting of COVID-19 health restrictions.

General Layug's membership committee that includes BGen Ramona Go and BGen Robert Romero screens the applicants' documents and conducts deliberation before forwarding the recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board, on its regular meetings, reviews the committee recommendation, makes a vetting and approves the submission. The acceptance is formalized through a board resolution. Thereafter, the new members take their oath of membership followed by pinning of the AGFO star collar pin.



PN, Commo Rolando Sarmiento, PN, and VAdm Joseph Coyme, PCG.

Finally, CSupt Wilberto Rico Neil Kwan Tiu mustered ten (10) new members from the Bureau of Fire Protection, namely: CSupt Rodolfo Denaga, CSupt Adel Bautista, CSupt Nahum Tarroza, CSupt Renato Capuz, CSupt Vonrad Fernando Dobluis, CSupt Jonas Silvano, CSupt Carlos Dueñas, CSupt Jerry Lamanero, CSupt Ricardo Perdigon, and CSupt Fred Trajeras.

AGFO membership has 3 categories: regular, associate and honorary. Regular members are those who have valid Presidential promotion orders to star ranks in the AFP, PNP, PCG, BFP and BJMP. Associate members are those star-rank officers belonging friendly foreign countries. There is only one honorary member and with ex-officio status- the President and Commander-in-Chief. ⚓



The new members from the Philippine Army are: LGen Raymundo Ferrer, MGen Reynaldo Aquino, MGen Proceso Rebanco, BGen Joseph Bernardo, BGen Leopoldo Santos Jr, BGen Glenn Jun Calambuhay, BGen Alvin Lagamon, BGen Randy Fajilagutan, BGen George Joel Lalaquil, BGen Lincoln Tagle, BGen Alejandro Papa, and BGen Benjamin Hao.

Those coming from the Philippine National Police include: PLGen Jose Chiquito Malayo, PLGen Benjamin Santos Jr, PBGen Peter Naboye, PBGen Roberto Alexander Morico II, PBGen Ronald Lee, PBGen Jerry Bearis, PBGen Rex Dela Rosa, PBGen Joseph Bayan, PBGen Gregory Bognalbal, PBGen Carlito Gaces, and PBGen Joel Doria.

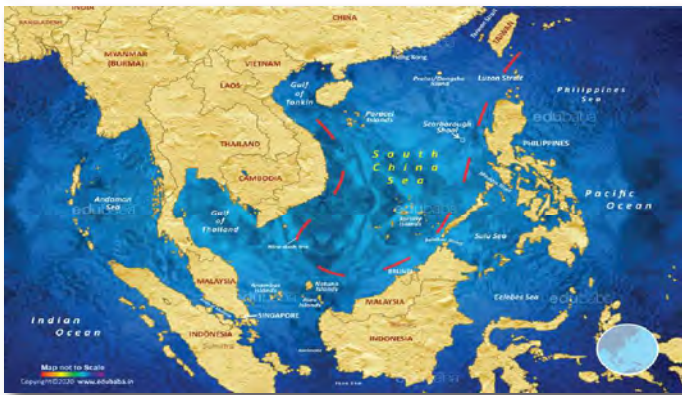
On the other hand, those from the Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard are: Commo Rodrigo Mejia,



STRATEGY OF A WEAK STATE

by BGen Manuel P Oxaes AFP (Ret)

The best evidence of China's expansionist agenda is its recently released administrative map, the so called 10 dash line which encompasses a wider and larger area than that within the previous 9dash line, a claim ruled by the 2016 Hague Arbitral Tribunal as without historical and legal basis under UNCLOS. China states that military alliances and blocks being led and formed by U.S. among Asian states aim to contain China. The use of the word 'contains' reveals China hegemonic designs. So said DND Sec Guillermo Teodoro in response to questions about these issues. What is the guiding doctrine of China's expansionist drive?



Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in his book 'China' wrote that Chinese leaders and strategists follow an ancient board game called WEI QI which stresses encirclement rather than domination and value strategic envelopment than destructive confrontations. (Kissinger was President Richard Nixon's emissary to China that led to the withdrawal of U.S troops from the disastrous Vietnam war from 1969-77 that killed 40,000 Americans, its termination and the reopening in 1977 of diplomatic ties between U.S. and China (U.S. and China were allies in WW II 1941-1945 against Japan, now a close and strong ally of U.S. against China. So, with Philippines which fought Japan in same war, now her biggest donor, aider, investor and a strong defense supporter. (How true what Prime Minister Vincent Palmestron of United Kingdom said in 1848 'there are no permanent friends nor eternal enemies but only permanent and eternal interests'),

Chinese military commanders adhere to China's ancient military strategist Sun Tzu's (544-496 B.C.) dictum, 'the best commander is he who wins battles without fighting', which still guides China's maritime activities until today.

A derivative of Sun Tzu's teaching is the cabbage

strategy, positioning and/or surrounding an area with massive or superior forces to control and dominate it and block intrusions from without. In April 2012 a Philippine navy ship had a standoff with Chinese militia ships which surrounded the waters off Scarborough Shoal, an islet 130 km west of Zamboales and prevented the entry of Filipino fishermen from their traditional fishing grounds. The timely intervention of U.S. which brokered a deal that both parties would vacate the area prevented a possible fire fight. Our ship left the area but the Chinese has not since then. From April to May in 2021 some 250 Chinese fishing vessels of various sizes and shapes escorted by fast attack craft armed with missiles anchored on and sailed the WPS on a fishing expedition. The big number and superiority of the ships could intimidate, deter and overwhelm any rival claimants to the vast fish resources of the sea. In February 2020 the BSP Conrado Yap while on patrol off the waters of Rizal Reef within the Spratly Island groups, 130 kms west of Palawan was accosted with pointed naval guns by a Chinese warship and told to leave the area.

Another is salami slicing strategy, a series of harassments and provocations not constituting a heightened conflict or a causa belli aimed to test the response of an intended victim, for a higher goal. Big Chinese coast guard ships have harassed Filipino fishing boats, lasered, water cannoned, tailed and blocked small Philippine coast vessels that escorted a puny boat bringing food supplies to Marines personnel stationed on a decrepit ship, the Sierra Madre, a rusty WW II ship deliberately sunk off the waters of Ayungin islets which are within the Philippines EEZ. The obvious objective was to wear down the Philippine vessels, exhaust their resources so they would vacate and abandon Ayungin in a battle of attrition.

What can a weak state do to influence, pressure, deter or counter an economic Giant and a military and naval Power?

What can it do it to the militarization of Mischief or Panginaban Reef, 130 kms west of Palawan, an islet within Philippines EEZ as ruled by the Hague Arbitral Tribunal? China has occupied it since 1994 (Senate revoked in 1992 the 1947 RP U.S. Bases Agreement), reclaimed the surrounding sea, turned it into a 5500 acre island, built runways for long range aircraft, er radar facilities, missile launching pads and piers for supply ships.

The government has filed over 200 diplomatic protests and called the attention of China's Ambassador for his explanation and intervention. Some officials have considered bringing the issue to the United Nations.

Faced with China's persistent intimidations and aggressive behavior on WPS the Philippines has adopted the strategy of a weak state, posturing as being harassed, bullied, trampled upon and threatened militarily, economically, physically and technologically by a big and strong neighbor -- to gain the attention, sympathy, cooperation and support of the world. It has sent to the world press news and photos of harassing incidents on WPS and big number of Chinese ships displaying might and control of the sea and defiance to rival claimants.

Critics from some quarters consider this strategy as acts of capitulations and appeasement. This writer opines though this mode of action or inactions has contributed in gaining for the Philippines new allies and defense partners and support from leading like minded states as well increased defense guarantees and protection from its traditional ally.

It has brought to the attention of the world the danger of China's dominating the waterways of South China Sea and beyond through which pass 30% of world trade and commerce worth trillions of U.S. dollars and controlling deposits of billions of barrels of gas and oil, and huge mineral and fish resources.

The United States and leading countries of the world have upheld that the ruling of the 2016 Hague Arbitral Tribunal as legal to promote harmony in a rule-based community of nations.

On its 7th anniversary this year the European Union including 16 other countries declared as "legally binding" the 2016 ruling of the Hague Arbitral Tribunal and "will serve as a basis for resolving disputes among the parties".

In July 2020 in a landmark statement U. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told China "to honor the 2016 ruling of the Hague Arbitral Tribunal" and further warned "U.S. will not allow China to make the SCS its maritime empire". ASEAN states and Taiwan, claimants over islands and waters in SCS welcomed this declaration.

US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs announced U.S. will "oppose any move by Beijing to physically occupy, conduct reclamation, militarization of or block the entry of

Filipino fishermen to Scarborough Shoal, 120 kms west of Zambales, the location of Subic Naval base.

It has strengthened U.S. guarantees in the 1951 RP U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty by affirming that "an attack in the Pacific including anywhere in the SCS on either of their public vessels, aircraft or armed force which include their Coast Guards would invoke Art IV and V". Further it "recognizes threats from several domains, land, sea, air space, cyber-space in varied forms of asymmetric, hybrid and irregular warfare" to be jointly deterred and repelled.

U.S. navy carrier strike forces have sailed through SCS as a demonstration of its massive power and the right of access and to freedom of navigation on international waters.

U.S. pledged increased military assistance. Two patrol ships were transferred to the Philippine Navy. It will provide structures and facilities, build or improve runways on new four locations in northern Luzon to serve as logistics, training, force mobilization sites, and disaster and humanitarian assistance hubs. It further assured maritime presence on WPS by holding joint and combined exercises with the navies of Australia and Japan and the Philippines. Navies of eight countries, Japan, Australia, Canada, Japan, France, Malaysia, Singapore and India have expressed willingness to join with Philippine Navy for maritime exercises on WPS.

In summary Philippines posturing as a weak state has contributed in eliciting support for the 2016 arbitral ruling from leading countries of the world and gained new allies and defense partners. Significantly U.S. has strengthened its commitments under the 1951 RP US Mutual Defense Treaty Philippine defense capabilities to meet varied forms of threat and external attacks have been effectively enhanced and upgraded without over burdening government finances.

In the event Philippines hold bilateral talks with China to resolve their conflicting territorial claims and sovereign rights on WPS the former stands on firmer and solid legitimate grounds, supported and backed by the might of her strongest ally the United States, new allies and defense partners. ⚓

About the Author:

BGen Manuel P Oxales AFP(Ret) has written several articles in numerous publications including the AGFO Newsletter. His field of interest is National Security having served the Philippine military in various capacities. He earned his bachelor's degree in the Philippine Military Academy in 1960 and post graduate degrees from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University and US National Defense University. He was a former Trustee of the AGFO Board and an editorial consultant of the AGFO Newsletter.

DEFENDING OUR PATRIMONY: The Need to Reshape the AFP's Operational Plan by MGen Melchor Rosales AFP (Ret)

The 2023 budget deliberations and recent legislative hearings once more brought to the fore their observation about our present inability to confront intrusions into the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise. One senator urged “the government to expedite the buildup of defense forces in the WPS.” Another congressman was advocating to stress lethality in the development of this force. These statements were all in line with the President’s statement that “We will never give up a single millimeter of Philippine territory.”

When a Chinese vessel sank the F/B Gem_Ver while anchored in the Recto Bank, the Filipino people made known their sentiments. The Social Weather Station, in its June 2019 survey, reported that 91% of our people want to regain control of islands in the West Philippine Sea.

It also showed that 92% urged government to “strengthen the military capability of the Philippines.” 84% of our people want alliances formed “with other countries that are ready to help us in defending our security in the West Philippine Sea.” The Officer-in-Charge of the Department of National Defense during the DND budget deliberations stated that the Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) is one of the weakest forces in the region.

Indeed, there is an urgent need as well as an opportunity to establish a new defense posture for the AFP. This will necessitate an expansion of the AFP operation plan.

Two primordial reasons for our lack of external combat power appear to be: First, our dependence on the U.S. to protect our country externally. Additionally, For 55 years the AFP operational strategy -- IPSP code name Katatagan, then Lambat Bitag followed by other code names that were adopted once a new administration took over. It was howev-

er mostly focused on counter insurgency.

We hardly developed an external protection capability even after the U.S. pulled out its bases in the country.

The constitution however mandates that “The State shall protect the nation’s Marine Wealth in Its Archipelagic Waters, Territorial Sea, and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino Citizens.”

The Philippine geography shows we comprise 300,000 square kilometers of land area and 2 million sq.km. of maritime area. Our defense plan, therefore, must have both internal and external considerations.

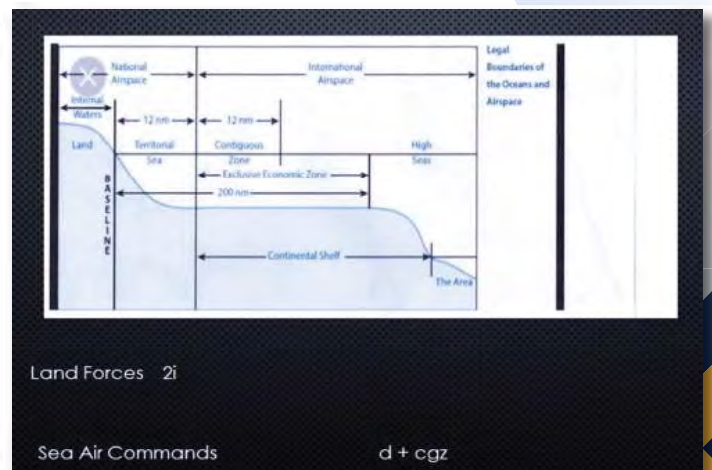
In 2011, the AFP already published its strategic intent aimed at maintaining a “credible deterrent posture” against foreign intrusion or external aggression, and other illegal activities while allowing free navigation. This intent still has to be operationalized.

The Department of Foreign Affairs enunciated in 2018, “the red lines” to prevent any takeover or building of facilities in the Scarborough Shoal, the Spratlys, and other islands within Philippine waters. It sought to protect our people from being deprived of their means of livelihood, and also to secure sources of food and natural resources from the blue economy for the future generations of Filipinos.

We, however, have been wanting in this regard, as we still do not have a credible manner of defense. It is not surprising that the AFP ranked 51 out of 100 countries in one worldwide survey.

It behooves upon us, therefore, to start crafting a more comprehensive operational strategy.

The expanded operational paradigm recommendation is: Anchored on the formula 2I + D +



+ CGZ, where 2I: Address Insurgency + Capability to defend against Invasion; D: Deterrent force capability to prevent further encroachment; and CGZ: Counter Grey Zone operations to deal with external operations short of war.



A study of Chinese deterrence at the time they were building up a blue water navy reveals an asymmetric strategy developed two decades ago against the fleet of U.S. carrier battle groups which involves controlling the sea from land. They developed a missile umbrella through their anti-access area denial strategy.

We can also adopt this concept.

Our expanded deterrent forces must focus on lethal systems against a surface fleet. There is a need for economy of force modernization. The most effective combination is the use of multi-directional maritime attack tactics combining sea mines, anti-ship missiles launched from land-based aircraft, surface to air batteries, mobile launchers, ship-based missiles, and torpedoes. This system must include new capabilities on ISRT by be the most cost-effective way to utilize what remains of Horizons 2 and 3.

Initially, it requires establishing up to three maritime joint commands, along with the proper equipment and trained personnel. The AFP West Command to cover Spratly's and WPS; Joint North West Luzon command for Scarborough Shoal and defense of Manila; and Joint North east command to protect the extended Continental Shelf and The Philippine Rise.

In light of the demand for additional Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) bases during the review of the Mutual Defense Treaty, we must now ask for the U.S. to develop the deterrent force utilizing Article II of the MDT. Article II states that to effectively achieve the object of this treaty, the two parties separately and jointly by self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack. The Philippines must request the U.S. for assistance and financial

aid to cover funding of our requirements for deterrence and counter grey zone operations.

We will also need help from other nations, especially if Washington does not come through for us.

We can get part of our needs from our strategic partners, and other allies, such as Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, and the European Union, among others through grants, soft loans, or long-term concessional loans.

There are creative ways to generate funds. We cannot sacrifice our capability to defend and protect our patrimony for reasons of lack of money.

China operates in the South China Sea (SCS) with its maritime fleet called the People Armed Forces Maritime Militia (PAFMM). They call these their Second Navy. These are deployed in close tandem with their fishing fleet that provides a gray zone capability for Chinese maritime law enforcement efforts in the 9-dash line against areas already recognized by UNCLOS and UN arbitration as part of the Philippine EEZ.

This is how they acquire artificial islands and implement their cabbage strategy and salami slicing tactics in operations short of war.

To counter grey zone operations, we must also organize, develop, and maintain air, naval and a coast guard auxiliary. Other bottoms composed of the Bureau of Fisheries and DENR, along with other government bureaus and private air and maritime companies will act as force multipliers.

Protecting our EEZ can be accomplished by expanding our current defense posture with a comprehensive operational concept, by not limiting it to internal security but likewise addressing the imperative of external defense.

This is the first step to have a minimum and credible unilateral capability to defend our territory.

All of these become mandatory due to the bill requiring a Comprehensive Review of the Executive Branch (CREB). This will authorize the President to right-size the operation of the Executive Branch by analyzing and designating the appropriate roles, mandates, structure, functions, size systems, and processes of the government agencies to ensure effective, responsive, and efficient service delivery.

More importantly, the protection of our energy sources to fill up the loss of Malampaya makes these interventions crucial for the country. We need a protective force for our plans in the exploitation of the Reed Bank, Philippine Rise, and other patrimonial assets. We can do no less. these interventions crucial for the country. We need a protective force for our plans in the exploitation of the Reed Bank, Philippine Rise, and other patrimonial

DEFENDING OUR PATRIMONY: The Need to Reshape the AFP's Operational Plan by MGen Melchor Rosales AFP (Ret)



assets. We can do no less.

Even if we are a small state, we must show resolve in protecting our EEZ and ECS ourselves through deterrence-oriented equipage, and joint operations. This is the only way for us to insure our food and energy security and recover our national pride and dignity to defend our patrimony. ⚓

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MGen Melchor P Rosales is a member of PMA Class 1968. He earned an MBA from Ateneo de Manila University and a Masters in Global Affairs from Fletcher School, Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. He was an Air Attache in Washington D.C., Commander of PAF Tactical Operations Command, and PMA Superintendent. He was a former DILG Undersecretary and OCD Administrator. A seasoned jet fighter and commander, MGen Rosales is a multi-awardee in military operations.

CHINA'S STAY IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA AND HARASSMENT OF PH SHIPS IN THE AYUNGIN SHOAL ARE ILLEGAL, DANGEROUS AND SHOULD BE RESISTED

by Advocates of National Interest

The water cannon attack last August 6, 2023 by the China Coast Guard on Philippine resupply vessels on the way to a PH military outpost in the West Philippine Sea and the earlier laser-targeting of a Philippine Coast Guard ship in the past are brazen actions repugnant to civilized nations.

The Ayungin Shoal is part of the Philippine Continental Shelf and the waters over the Shoal are within the Philippines' 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Philippines enjoys sovereign rights over them.

The continuous presence of China Coast Guard ships and China maritime militia vessels within the Philippine EEZ, specifically around Ayungin Shoal, violates the concept of freedom of navigation that only allows continuous, expeditious and unhampered passage of merchant vessels for maritime trade over waterways where a country exercises sovereign rights. To remain stationary in those waterways, except for structural and mechanical failure, for long periods is deemed suspicious and illegal.

In 2016 the Permanent Court of Arbitration, or the Arbitral Tribunal, after an extensive examination of the Spratly Islands based on the 1982 UNCLOS, ruled that those features are not entitled to an EEZ or a continental shelf, either singly or collectively. Furthermore, the Tribunal declared that China has no basis to claim that it has overlapping EEZ/Continental Shelf with the Philippines.

Sixteen countries and the European Union have recognized and expressed support to the 2016 Arbitral

Ruling that categorically invalidated China's claim of historic rights to waters bounded by its so called "nine-dash" line. This decision upheld the Philippines sovereign rights over its EEZ reckoned from the base lines stipulated by RA 9522.

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In view of the foregoing, WE, the ADVOCATES OF NATIONAL INTEREST (ANI), state that:

WE FIRMLY SUPPORT the policy of the Philippine government to denounce the illegal and dangerous actions of China in the West Philippine Sea;

WE STRONGLY URGE the Filipino nation to unite in resisting illegal claims in our EEZ and support rules-based international order in resolving maritime disputes;

WE EARNESTLY ADVISE the adoption of a holistic approach in addressing issues in the West Philippine Sea by employing all the instruments of national power: diplomacy, economic, informational and military to actively resist China's aggressive actions including "gray zone" tactics, in tandem with our allies, partners and friends. ⚓

August 15, 2023.

The ANI is composed of retired senior military officers and government officials who have adopted national interest relating to national defense and security as the primary focus of its advocacy. Members include LGen. Edilberto P. Adan (Ret)-Chairman, Gen. Renato De Villa (Ret), Col. Plaridel Abaya (Ret), Commo. Plaridel Garcia (Ret), Col. Niceto Festin (Ret), PGen. Recaredo Sarmiento (Ret), LGen. Raul Urgello (Ret), Col. Guillermo Cunanan (Ret), Col. Mariano Santiago (Ret), MGen Melchor Rosales (Ret), BGen. Eliseo Rio Jr. (Ret), Col. Alejandro Flores (Ret), Gen. Alexander V. Yano (Ret), Gen. Victor S. Ibrado (Ret), VAdm. Emilio Marayag (Ret), Gen. Emmanuel Bautista (Ret), Roberto DC Yap PA (Ret), Former Rep. Ashley Acedillo, and Gen. Eduardo Oban (on leave). Founding members include MGen. Ramon Farolan+, Commo. Carlos Agustin+ and Gen. Rodolfo Biazon+.



RESTRUCTURING DEFENSE FORCES FOR MARITIME DOMAIN PROTECTION

by VAdm Emilio C Marayag Jr AFP (Ret)

One of the pillars of the 1995 and the amended AFP Modernization Law is force restructuring and organizational development. The original law focused on external defense given the transfer of the Internal Security Operations (ISO) from the AFP to the newly created Philippine National Police. Through Congressional Joint Resolution No. 28, the ground forces were supposed to be reorganized into 3 infantry divisions and 8 separate infantry brigades. However, the ISO responsibility was reverted back to the AFP and the force restructuring program never took place. More infantry divisions and brigades were activated, as well as joint command headquarters.

The recent frequent intrusions and eventual control of some of the nation's maritime areas by a neighboring state and the dwindling elements of the local communist movement, including the death of its top ideologue, are positive indications that defense forces need to be restructured to prevent further diminution of food and mineral resources in our maritime areas.

Napoleon Bonaparte once postulated "the tactics of war should be changed every 10 years to retain its superiority." Those "tactics," likely referring to doctrines, normally lead to force restructuring and organizational development. Revisionist states like China and Russia, understand this fully as they find ways to seek additional power or influence over

other states. For example, China in 2017 restructured its ground force-centric, infantry-heavy, and low-technology military into a joint-command, networked, and high-technology force. It reduced its manpower by 13%, created the PLA Rocket Force, Strategic Support Force, Logistics Support Force, and harnessed civilian science and technology for integration into military operations. It reorganized its army divisions and regiments into brigades for operational flexibility, and strengthened its maritime forces by putting its Coast Guard (CCG) and People's Armed Forces Maritime Militia (PAFMM, or CMM) under the Military Commission for better command and control. China's concept of modernization includes testing and application of military theories, reviewing and refining organizational structure, training units, educating military personnel, and improving weaponry. On the other hand, the Russian invasion of Ukraine threatens peace and stability in Europe and the whole world in general. Russia's failure to decisively defeat Ukraine's defense forces reflects its rigid, outdated doctrines that makes victory difficult to predict.

In the January 2023 issue of *Maritime Review*, retired Air Force Major General Melchor Rosales wrote an article on the need to "reshape" AFP's operational plan to defend our patrimony. He introduced a formula: "EOP = 2I + D + CGZ" as a basis to enhance defense forces' capability. EOP means Expanded Operational Paradigm; 2I represents the core functions of the AFP: counter Insurgency and counter Invasion; D refers to building up Deterrence capabilities to prevent further maritime encroachment; and CGZ stands for Counter Gray Zone capabilities. The 2Is are the AFP's principal missions. The D and CGZ are the proposed additional missions.

The above proposal will not totally diminish counter Insurgency, counter Invasion, and counter gray zone efforts on land territories but will give more focus to defend the maritime zones where substantial natural resources are found. It will allocate some naval and air force personnel, defense equipment, tools and platforms to enhance maritime domain awareness to prevent more intrusions and to counter gray zone operations under a joint command set up.

A new joint command will have geographic areas reckoned from the edge of the territorial sea up to the EEZ and ECS. It will concentrate on sovereignty patrols and countering gray zone operations within our maritime borders. In case of encountering



unfriendly naval and air forces the proposed joint command will employ available platforms and weapons while waiting for more suitable delivery platforms and lethal munitions. This joint command will formulate counter gray zone operating doctrine to serve as the authority to train, deploy and employ forces assigned to it. With maritime areas beyond territorial sea outside the responsibility of existing unified commands, counter insurgency operations and training and organizing the police forces to assume internal peace and security duties will be hastened. Land-based counter-gray zone concerns can then be fully addressed. Likewise, the training and preparation of our reserve forces for counter invasion will be expedited.

Many security analysts view that gray zone operations cover not only the maritime domain (island building, occupation, maritime militia, blockage) but a lot more like election meddling, economic coercion, cyber espionage, debt dependency, forced technology transfer and others. The gray zone operators employ tools such as proxy forces, information warfare (using the mainstream and social media to sow doubt, dissent, misinformation and build false narratives), corruption of politicians, economic means (cutting energy supply, infrastructure projects without viable economic returns and employing their own workers), and shaping the civil society (Confucius Institutes, Russian Orthodox Church).

China's gray zone strategy in South China Sea consists of 4 reinforcing actions:

- ignore the 2016 Arbitral Ruling;
- reinforce control of occupied and artificially built islands;
- employing its Coast Guard and Maritime Militia;
- use economic leverage to demand compromise; and
- squat in the occupied features and wear off other claimants.

To China, gray zone operations are meant to maintain stability, protect its "rights," and are considered essential to its security and guarding operations.

To counter gray zone operations these security analysts also point out that upon spotting the gray zone actions, responding boldly will minimize their effects. They suggest several techniques:

- transparency to draw attention to the coercive actions;
- deterrence;
- preparation and preemption to expose the action; and
- integrated actions using the "whole of society" approach including strengthening national identity, with early and bold action.

Some members of The Maritime League are consistently voicing out the importance of following the rule of law, the need for transparency in government actions to counter China's gray zone tactics, and the benefits of having a defense ally and security partners. Sadly, some media commentators and academics appear biased in supporting non-Filipino narratives by highlighting the disadvantages of fulfilling our defense treaty obligations while overlooking the creeping invasion of our maritime zones and setting aside the favorable population support to the rule of law and to our ally.

The force restructuring and organizational development entail consolidation of maritime forces. China has 3 seagoing forces: PLAN, CCG and CMM, under one command and control body, the Military Commission. The country has 2 but with separate command and control. Barely ten years after China consolidated its maritime forces it had established "command" of the South China Sea threatening freedom of navigation therein and continuing its creeping invasion. Among the claimant nations, Indonesia and Vietnam made significant bold responses –burning fishing boats and using naval ships to confront the CCG and CMM– that deter further Chinese presence in their maritime areas.

Up north, the Japanese self-defense and maritime safety assets challenge CCG and CMM ships to assert their position against poaching their borders. Our only defense ally has been asserting the freedom of navigation provision of the UNCLOS and other international laws. Some EU nations have sent their naval contingents to send a strong message that the rule of law must be upheld by the international community.

With growing support from other friendly nations, we must show our unequivocal position that we are also prepared to do our share by restructuring our defense forces. The PCG may have to be transferred to the National Defense Department and further to the AFP in the interest of efficiency, effectiveness, and economy. The U.S. Coast Guard used to be with the Treasury Department, was then moved to the Department of Transportation, and finally to the Department of Homeland Security in 2001. The maxim of Napoleon Bonaparte on "changing tactics in war every 10 years ... to retain superiority" may be a thing to ponder, and the sooner the better. ⚓

About the Author:

VAdm Emilio C Marayag Jr. joined the military service in 1972 as PMA Cadet graduating 4th in his Class in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree (magna cum laude) and received the PN, JUSMAG, Military Sciences and Journalism awards. He earned a Master of Defense Administration degree in 1996 from the Royal Military College of Science/Cranfield University, UK and attended military professional and special courses in Command and Staff, Flag-level Combined Maritime Forces Commander Course and Security Assistance and seminars on Conflict Resolution and Management, Defense Public Affairs and Coalition ROE formulation. He chairs the editorial board of the Maritime Review magazine of the Maritime League.

REP. LIBANAN, FORMER SND GONZALES GUEST AT AGFO FORUM

Two distinguished personalities- Representative Marcelino Libanan and former Secretary Norberto Gonzales- guested in the quarterly AGFO Forum held at the AGFO Center on February 28 and May 9, 2023, respectively. Some 50 members and selected guests from General Headquarters attended both events.



Congress Minority Floor Leader, Rep. Marcelino Libanan presented his views on what he termed as Calculated Neutrality in US-China-Philippines Relations. He argued that the brewing regional conflict with Taiwan as trigger should simmer down to avert violent confrontation by resolving the differences through diplomatic channel. During the open forum, many members stressed that we have a defense treaty with the US and obligated to abide by it. They cited that it is not the Philippines that disturbs the freedom of navigation in South China Sea nor disregards the UNCLOS, especially the 2016 Arbitral Ruling pertaining to the West Philippine Sea. Congressman Libanan took notes of the comments from the audience and took the opportunity to renew acquaintances with some members he worked with in the past who attended the forum.

Sec. Norberto Gonzales spoke about emerging national security challenges especially with the diminishing threat from the communist terrorists, the Taiwan dilemma and the frequent intrusions of China in the West Philippine Sea. He said it is difficult



intrusions of China in the West Philippine Sea. He said it is difficult to make an accurate strategic assessment given the volatility, unpredictability, complexity and ambiguity of the security environment. He encouraged instead, the audience to ask questions and their personal views about the prevailing security concerns and imperatives.

On the electoral process, LGen Ed Adan inquired about the possible fraud to which Secretary Gonzales revealed that election irregularity happened in 2010. He attributed the anomalies to failure of electoral parties to come out with genuine platforms that would benefit our people. He added that most politicians choose their political parties for convenience and are considered irrelevant. Commo Francisco Tolin also asked about the country's economic strategy to which the resource speaker responded that the poor lacks participation and the divide has widened throughout the years. He cited corruption, perpetuated mostly by politicians, as one the reasons why our economic strategy is hard to implement. LGen Ernesto Carolina, on the other hand, queried on how to transform the government and the speaker gave a short and concise answer: Very difficult... short of revolution. Gen Rodolfo Biazon asked the speaker on the latter's assessment of the ASEAN's regional security thinking and actions. Secretary Gonzales responded that the decision making of the ASEAN is by consensus and thus cannot be relied upon; hence, we must endeavor stand alone and make ROTC mandatory for defense purposes.

MGen Edgard Arevalo commented that US is our only defense ally and it should be made clear to the people. He added that as an ally we must be willing to contribute. And he supports the revival of a robust ROTC program. MGen Marlou Salazar and BGen Resty Aguilar called for demolition of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani, erected in UP compound, that features members of the left during the 70s and 80s. ⚓

PMA SUPERINTENDENT, PNPA FORMER DIRECTOR SPEAK AT AGFO CENTER



Philippine Military Academy Superintendent, LGEN ROWEN S TOLENTINO PA and former Philippine National Police Academy Director, PMGEN ERIC E NOBLE PNP briefed the AGFO members during the 3rd AGFO Forum on July 26, 2023 at the AGFO Social Hall. The objectives of the dual briefings are to convey institutional reform updates and interact with Association members in the spirit of continuous learning and camaraderie.

the Academy a Center for Leadership Excellence that molds future officers for the military service and leaders for the nation.



General Tolentino cited several innovations that have been introduced in the Academy consisting of better handling of cadet disciplinary and administrative cases; revision and crafting of PMA manuals covering cadet regulations, honor system and cadet uniforms; faculty development programs including research and teaching methodologies; cadet physical training (lean and mean); advocacies to eradicate maltreatment; and improving leadership potential. He stressed that the Academy will relentlessly pursue its mission to make



Police General Noble, on the other hand, enumerated a number of police academy's internal reforms starting with the "war against hazing and guard against maltreatment", or WAHGAM, program by addressing logistics issues like infrastructures and training equipment. He also mentioned other reforms such as enhancing the curriculum, expanding the cadet community outreach and other training institutions engagements, and inculcating the basic values of character development such as honesty, hard work, and self-discipline.

Both speakers revealed that the current and future military and police leaders must be highly adept not only in academics, technology and military/police sciences but also in morals and ethics to better serve the nation and the Filipino people. ⚓

AGFO VISITS PRC, NDRRMC OPERATIONS CENTERS



Aware of the increasing occurrences of natural disasters attributed to global warming and to keep abreast with the current and future plans on disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, some AGFO trustees and Association members visited the leading government and non-government institutions based in Metro Manila last March 29, 2023 and May 18, 2023.

The first visit, arranged by LGen Edilberto Adan, was held in the Philippine Red Cross Operations Center on March 29, 2023 in PRC Tower, Mandaluyong City. Former Senator Richard “Dick” Gordon, Chairman of Philippine Red Cross, welcomed the group and introduced the senior managers of the organization. He then asked his briefing staff to present the concept and brief history of the “Red Cross”, its structural organization, operational activities and funding sources. After the briefing and open forum, a short tour of the Center ensued. The good senator later invited the group for a dinner at the open deck of the tower building where he casually intimated that the PRC is one of the few national “Red Cross” organizations worldwide that have sufficient resources to conduct humanitarian missions.

The second was a visit to the NDRRMC Operations Center on May 18, 2023. The center is located in the Office Of Civil Defense in Camp Aguinaldo. MGen Cesar Idio AFP(Ret) who headed the Center, received the group. He revealed at the start of the briefing that the country is one of the more responsive



the start of the briefing that the country is one of the more responsive nations in providing disaster relief and humanitarian assistance services in the ASEAN region. The agency coordinates with PRC on certain matters and counterpart agencies in the ASEAN region, as well as UN organizations. The group then toured the facility that houses latest state-of-the-art equipment for better and timely coordination in addressing relief operations. ⚓

Announcement:

What: Annual General Membership Meeting and Elections.

Who: AGFO Members

When: November 24, 2023 8am to 12noon

Where: AGFO Center

Note:

Election of 5 BOT members by balloting starts at 8am till 10am; while the election of Association President comes after the Annual Membership Meeting.

AGFO HOLDS GOLF FELLOWSHIP



The Association of General and Flag Officers (AGFO) held its Golf Fellowship last May 22, 2023 at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club after a five-year hiatus. Its revival is a welcome respite from the usual forum and discussions, golf being a most sought after activity among its members. The fun event saw the participation of 27 players led by senior players - Generals Montesa, Jimmy Delos Santos and Mel Rosales. Lunch, raffle draw and awarding ceremony followed the game. Hereunder are the winners:

Overall Champion – MGEN Romy Prestoza

Class A Champion – BGEN Boogie De Vera

Class A Runner up – BGEN Mar Mejia

Class B Champion – MGEN Mel Rosales

Class B Runner up – MGEN Rey Rivera

Fun Holes

Longest Drive – BGEN Rey Ramirez

Most Accurate Drive – PGEN Jess Verzosa

Nearest to the Pin – BGEN Boogie De Vera

Longest Putt – VADM Chappy Reyes

Highest Gross – BGEN Vir Garcia

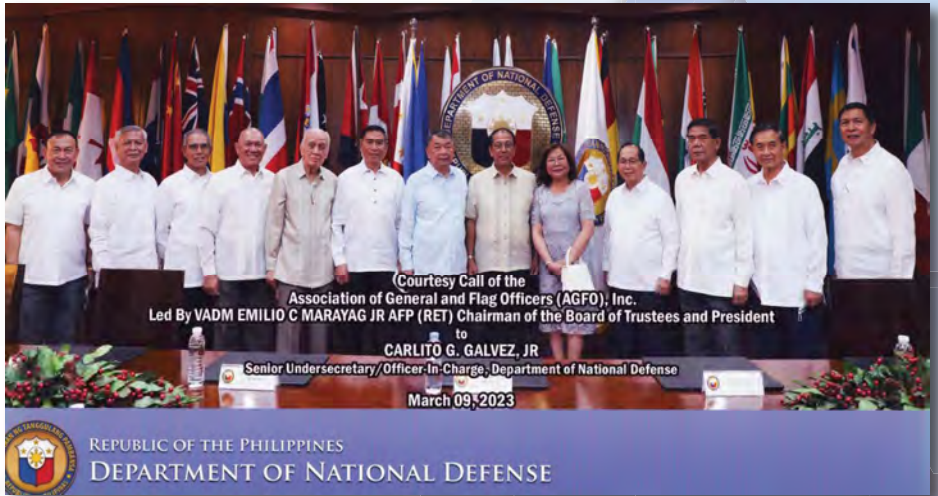
The Golfing event was made possible through the efforts of the AGFO Sports Committee whose members are: LGen Oca Rabena, PMGen Gerry Doria, BGen Romy Fajardo and BGen Andrew Regacho, with the support of Rose Blaquera, Auring Castañeda and Julius Vengco. It is expected that with increasing interest, more members will participate in the next golf fellowship. ⚓



COURTESY CALLS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

The AGFO Board of Trustees made courtesy calls on the former OIC, DND Senior Undersecretary Carlito G Galvez Jr and the incumbent Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr on March 9, 2023 and September 5, 2023, respectively, at the DND Conference Room in Camp Aguinaldo.

During the call on Senior Undersecretary Galvez, the hot issue was about the Expanded Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). He cited that among the four additional EDCA sites, two were being opposed by the



provincial governor and he may have to meet the governor to convince the latter. He also mentioned about joint exercises in WPS with our defense ally and possible acquisition of equipment and platforms under the EDA arrangement. AGFO suggested that defense procurement policy must consider the level of technology. A plaque of recognition was presented to Secretary Galvez for his outstanding efforts in fostering better alliance with US and defense cooperation with friendly nations.

On the other hand, the leading issue at the time of the call on Secretary Teodoro was the MUP pension. The Secretary stressed the non-diminution of existing benefits, like full indexation, based on one-rank higher, and other features, for the current and future military retirees, except the new entrants. He also informed the group that the Department will undergo restructuring to improve effectiveness and efficiency, re-examine the defense-in-depth strategy, refocus education and training in connection with capability upgrade under the AFP modernization program, and re-engineer defense budgeting

upgrade under the AFP modernization program, and re-engineer defense budgeting process to insure continuous operational support to the new equipment and platforms.

In both occasions, the AGFO Board conveyed its full support to the Department's thrusts of defending the Republic by working closely with allies and friends, actively pursuing the AFP modernization, and caring for the morale and welfare of the soldiers and veterans. ⚓



AGFO INVITES CARAVANS FOR DECAL AND FIREARMS REGISTRATION



To assist the Association members and their dependents in their applications for AFP decals and LTOPF/FA registration, the BOT through the Management Team requested on separate occasions the Commander, GHQ and HSC, AFP and the Director, PNP Firearms and Explosives Office to send their mobile teams to AGFO Center.

The first caravan was held on April 14, 2023 with 78 beneficiaries. The Camp Commander, BGEN ARMAN M AREVALO PA personally led his team in providing efficient service to the Association members. He informed AGFO that camp authorities will vigorously



implement Project HAWKEYE to insure physical and personnel security inside Camp Aguinaldo at all times. The processing of decals went on smoothly and those who failed to join can avail of the same services on-line using the QR code icon below or contact HSC-OG2 hotline number 0927-113-8220.

The second caravan took place on September 20, 2023 benefiting 51 applicants including 42 who were issued police clearances. PLTCOL BENJIE CALAPIZ assisted by PCPT BRIGITT ABRIGO led the entire contingent consisting of a National

Police Clearance (NPC) team, an LTOPF/FA Registration team and a Neuropsychiatric (NP) team. PSsg John Philip Alhambra and PCpl Jacky Tumaliuan composed the NPC team; while PCPT EMERY ABALAJON with PSsg Rowel John Felipe, Pat Marilyn Diarbe and Pvt Princess Wilson comprised the NP team. PEms Levie Sinatad, PSms Abelilla and PSsg Arnold Maraya were with the LTOPF/FA Registration team from the Regional Civil Security Unit (RCSU-NCR) along with PLTCOL CALAPIZ and PCPT ABRIGO.



In addition to the PNP contingent, ARMSCOR, a leading domestic firearms manufacturer, extended its services to AGFO by conducting gun safety seminar, one of the requirements for LTOPF/FA Registration, at the social hall. BGen Raymundo Francisco facilitated the availability of this team consisting of Edward Taguiam, Reynaldo Salvador, Yuka Hayakawa and ARMSCOR coordinator April Rose Corpuz.



GHQ & HSC, AFP ADVISORY

"Our Camp, Our Family, Our Home, Our Community"

ANNOUNCEMENT

Application and Issuance of Car Decal/Stickers

We are pleased to announce that the start of the online application of Vehicle Decal/Sticker for CY 2023-2024 will be from 15-31 March 2023. The following are the requirements to be uploaded to the portal:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-mail Address Official Receipt (OR) Certificate of Registration (CR) Deed of Sale (if the certificate of registration is not under the applicant's name) Certificate/Authorization from the company (if the vehicle is company issued/owned) 2x2 picture of the registered owner 2x2 picture of the authorized driver, if any Photocopy of military ID for active AFP personnel, Reservists, and former military personnel; CHR IDs of AFP and DND, Office ID or driver's license for civilians. Photocopy of retirement/separation/discharge order of former military personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photocopy of commissionship/enlistment for reservist Photocopy of the latest appointment order of AFP CHR and DND organic personnel Photocopy of Marriage Contract, in case the vehicle is registered to a non-military spouse Photo of car/motorcycle with a clear view of the license plate number.
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SCAN ME

Moreover, vehicles with 2022 car/motorcycle pass cards/stickers will be allowed to enter the gates up to 15 April 2023 only. Should you have any concerns or queries on this matter, please feel free to call OG2 Hotline Number (0927)113-8220.

THE MARITIME LEAGUE OFFICERS VISIT AGFO

The Maritime League Inc. officers led by VAdm Eduardo Ma. R. Santos, President and Board Chairman, visited AGFO Center on July 28, 2023. He was accompanied by Maritime League Trustees RAdm Margarito Sanchez, an AGFO member; LTJG Christian Chua, a naval reservist officer, and Mr. John Paul Agustin, League's web site designer. Admiral Santos has been the President of the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) since his retirement in 1999 after serving as Flag Officer In Command, PN. He is also an honorary Philippine Ambassador to the International Maritime Organization.

AGFO President VAdm Emilio C Marayag Jr, took the opportunity to pin the AGFO star pin on Admiral Santos' collar after learning that the latter never received one and it was his first visit to AGFO Center since joining the Association 25 years ago. Admiral Marayag worked under Admiral Santos as naval modernization director and head of mine warfare capability study committee, and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Plans, N5.

Admiral Santos later paid a courtesy call on Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr at the NDRRMC Operations Center. He invited the Secretary to the forthcoming 2023 Philippine International Maritime Conference and Exposition, organized and hosted by League, with the theme Philippine Blue Economy: Insights and Foresights featuring resource speakers from here and abroad, including Prof. Maximo Mejia, a former PN officer and MARINA Administrator and the first Filipino to become President of the World Maritime University based in Sweden. ⚓



BGEN OXALES BAGS BEST WRITER AWARD

Former AGFO Trustee BGen Manuel P Oxales recently earned a distinct accolade from The Maritime League, Inc. as Best Writer in National Affairs Category of the Maritime Review, the League's official publication, during the Networking Awarding Night of the Philippine International Maritime Conference and Exposition, dubbed BEACON2023, hosted by the League, on September 7, 2023 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Manila.

Maritime Review executive editor Vicky Viray-Mendoza said General Oxales contributed a number of articles in the Maritime Review. He also wrote three books in the past: Advocacy in Retirement, Advocacy Through the Years, and Two Stories of the February 1986 Revolution. His third book was featured as a 2-hour telemovie in 1987. He holds a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines (UP), a Masters degree in National Security Administration from the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), and a National Security Management degree from the US Industrial College at Fort McNair, Washington DC. He was a former lecturer at UP, Ateneo, and NDCP. A Golden Aviator awardee, General Oxales served as Wing Commander in Southern Mindanao and a senior staff at Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, J5, while in the active service.

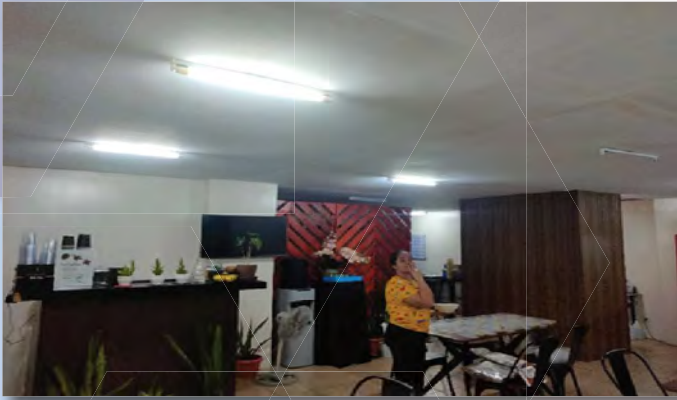


Retired VAdm Eduardo Ma. R Santos, League Chairman and President, handed the award to VAdm Emilio C Marayag Jr, Chairman of Maritime Review Editorial Board, on behalf of General Oxales. In turn Admiral Marayag presented the award in the AGFO Center on September 24, 2023. The other writer-awardees were: late Navy Captain Tomas Bains, PCGA Commander Mark Condono, Mr. Karl Garcia, NAMRIA Captain Carter Luma-ang, and Atty Ramon Paterno. Former Ambassador Evan Garcia, past PH Permanent Representative to the UN based in Switzerland, gave a brief acknowledgement to the awardees and congratulated The Maritime League, Inc. for advancing the importance of Philippine Blue Economy in the nation's economic agenda. ⚓

UPKEEP AND UPDATE IN THE AGFO CENTER

To make the AGFO Center more appealing to the Association members and prevent further deterioration, the Management Team with the approval of the Board of Trustees (BOT) embarked on renovation and repairs on some of its vital facilities inside the compound. These include the Canteen, overall electrical connections, restrooms and the social hall.

The Canteen underwent major repairs on its electrical connections, roofing, rest rooms and overall ventilation. The repair started in March and lasted till August and entailed Php270,678 for labor



and materials. The facility was repaired some 20 years ago.

Likewise, to ensure a robust electrical connections the Management Team caused the removal of the old dangling live main wires attached to the upper front building wall and re-installed new wires passing through the side and back portion of the structure. The camp engineer provided technicians for the purpose. This activity cost Php50,000 for the electrical wires and appurtenances.

The rest room area also went through renovation by converting the dressing room in the Chairman's



office into additional, all-gender comfort room. In addition the existing restrooms went through partial re-tiling and slight renovation of the old male toilet, replacement of all exhaust fans, and repainting. The Association spent Php103,260 for this activity.

Given the inoperable and inadequate air-conditioning units (ACU) in the social hall, main lobby and the boardroom, 2 new split-type ACUs were procured, one each for the social hall and the lobby; while a reconditioned window-type AC was installed to augment the existing ACU. The Association spent Php133,405 for this specific project.



Out of the total expenses for partial renovation and repairs worth Php454,083, two (2) AGFO members, who chose to remain anonymous, donated Php125,000.

The Management Team has recommended to the BOT an annual budget allocation for the upkeep and repairs and enjoined the canteen operator to adhere to existing policies on the proper maintenance of the facility, including sanitation and cleanliness, to prevent deterioration and fire hazards. ⚓

MILITARY QUOTATIONS AND MAXIMS

by VAdm Emilio C Marayag Jr (Ret)

The following famous quotations and maxims came from various sources. The writer compiled and published them in this Newsletter to reecho the basic learnings from military schools and provide ready reference to those who wish to relate such writings to the current and future defense and security issues.

On the Origins of Military Rules of Engagement (ROE).

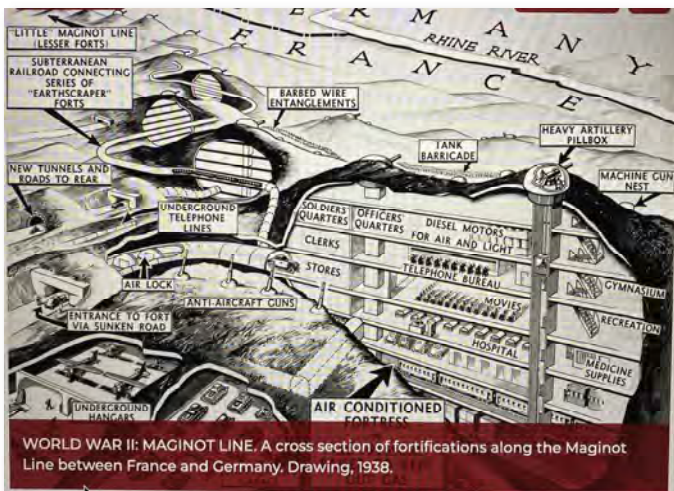
“Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes”- Colonel William Prescott (1775), Battle of Bunker Hill, Boston, Massachusetts. This is the popular version taught in military schools. But there are two other variations that emanated from Europe:

“Silent till you see the whites of their eyes”- Prussian Prince Charles (1745).

“By push of bayonets, no firing till you see the whites of their eyes” - Frederick the Great (1757).

On War and Strategy.

“The side which stays within its fortifications is beaten.”- Napoleon Bonaparte (1815 est.) made this statement more than hundred years before WWII but the French probably overlooked it. In 1930 France built the Maginot Line, a seemingly impregnable defense fortification manned by 36 army divisions, probably “to win another WW1.” In May 1940 the Germans employed few divisions to tie down the defenders while attacking half of France. France fell in 46 days.



“War means fighting, and fighting means killing.”- Confederate General Nathan Bedford, also known as Devil Forrest, is one of the most brilliant Confederate commanders by gaining many battle victories from 1861-1865. His military strategy: “Get there first with the most men.” Known as Wizard of the Saddle during the American Civil War, his hatred for the black Americans transformed him as the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan after the war.

“One hits somebody with his fist and not with fingers spread.” Concept of Germany’s Blitzkrieg warfare, 1940. Prussian-born General Heinz Guderian advocated the concept in 1937: “We believe that by attacking with tanks we can achieve a higher rate of movement that has been hitherto obtainable and ...that we can keep moving once a breakthrough has been made.” The Germans tediously rehearsed the concept in Spain and successfully applied in the Poland invasion on September 1, 1939 to October 6, 1939. The concept strongly approximate combined arms or joint operations.

On Personal Courage in the Battlefield.

“I have not yet begun to fight”- John Paul Jones (September 23, 1779), Battle of Flamborough Head, in Yorkshire coast, England between USS Bonhomme Richard, USS Alliance and USS Pallas led by John Paul Jones and British combatants HMS Serapis and HM armed ship Countess of Scarborough, both escorting a large merchant convoy. Initially badly wounded, the British offered surrender to the American sailors but Jones, after brief recovery, rallied his men and replied with his famous words ultimately prevailing in the battle with the capture of HMS Serapis. John Paul Jones died in Paris in 1792 at age 46 and re-interred in the US Naval Academy Chapel in 1913.

“I was ordered to take a height, which I did, under the most withering fire I have ever known.”- Confederate General George Pickett after his defeat in the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (1863). Abraham Lincoln delivered his classic address four months after the defeat of the Confederate armies in that historic battle.

“Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!”- Rear Admiral David Farragut (1864), Battle of Mobile Bay, Alabama against Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan. Farragut attacked the well-fortified harbor occupied by the Confederates that was protected by 3 army forts and a large number of floating mines. At that time the torpedoes

mentioned by Admiral Farragut were actually sea mines.

“We have been so intent on death that we have forgotten life.”- Audie Murphy, America’s most decorated soldier of WWII. His statement came as he underwent medical treatment after the war. He later became an actor and made 44 films including *To Hell and Back* and *The Red Badge of Courage*. He died in a plane crash in 1971 and was buried in Arlington Cemetery. His grave is second most visited site after John F. Kennedy.

On Military History.

“History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon.”- Napoleon Bonaparte (1819 est). Many articles described Napoleon as “short” with 5’2” in height. But he actually stood at 5’6”. History cut his height by 4 inches. A popular variant to this runs like this: “History is written by the victors.”

“O Captain! My Captain!” -Walt Whitman, a famous American writer during the Civil War, wrote an ode (lyric poem) dedicated to Abraham Lincoln

after the latter’s death in 1865. He shared Lincoln’s ideology, “We are afloat on the same stream---we are rooted in the same ground.” Whitman’s ode has been widely read and recited in high school literary classes.

“We shall go to the end...we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a larger part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet would carry on the struggle, until, in God’s good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.”- Sir Winston Churchill, June 4, 1940. The British defense doctrine states that some of the factors that determine the warfighting power of a nation are leadership, morale and motivation. An eloquent speaker and a warrior, Churchill galvanized the fighting spirit of the British people. ⚓

AGFO DEPARTED MEMBERS (2023)

1. BGEN JOSE PROCESO TORRELAVEGA	07 Jan 2023
2. BGEN REYNALDO G DILAN	12 Jan 2023
3. MGEN ERICKSON C AURELIO	07 Feb 2023
4. PBGEN LUISITO T PALMERA	07 Feb 2023
5. BGEN ROLANDO Y ESPEJO	15 Feb 2023
6. MGEN BENJAMIN N LIBARNES	18 Mar 2023
7. PLGEN VIRTUS V GIL	21 Mar 2023
8. GEN DIOMEDIO P VILLANUEVA	30 Apr 2023
9. PBGEN GEORGE A ANCHETA	17 May 2023
10. PLGEN EDMUNDO L LARROZA	May 2023
11. BGEN ANTONIO R SAMONTE	17 May 2023
12. BGEN MIGUEL D HINLO	29 May 2023
13. MGEN RAMON J FAROLAN	31 May 2023
14. BGEN ROLANDO C ESCALONA	03 June 2023
15. BGEN TOMAS N DUMPIT	11 June 2023
16. GEN RODOLFO G BIAZON	12 June 2023
17. MGEN VICENTE M PORTO	06 July 2023
18. PBGEN ROGELIO S MARTIN	08 July 2023
19. LTGEN SALVADOR M MISON	19 July 2023
20. BGEN BERNARDO C FERRER	24 Aug 2023
21. PBGEN MANUEL CABIGON	09 Oct 2023



LIST OF AGFO PRESIDENTS

MGEN GUILLERMO B FRANCISCO AFP(RET)	1965-1967
LTGEN PELAGIO A CRUZ AFP(RET)	1968-1971
LTGEN JESUS M VARGAS AFP(RET)	1972-1974
BGEN TEODORICO P ALMUETE AFP(RET)	1975-1977
BGEN MARIANO G ORDOÑEZ AFP(RET)	1978-1985
BGEN REYNALDO A MENDOZA AFP(RET)	1986-1988
BGEN ERNESTO S GIDAYA AFP(RET)	1989
BGEN GUILLERMO A PECACHE AFP(RET)	1990-1992
BGEN ERNESTO S GIDAYA AFP(RET)	1993-1995
BGEN PEDRO R BALBANERO AFP(RET)	1996-1997
BGEN CATALINO B VILLANUEVA AFP(RET)	1998
BGEN FELIX BRAWNER JR AFP(RET)	1999- 2000
BGEN ROSALINO A ALQUIZA AFP(RET)	2000 (15Jun- 01Oct)
BGEN ERNESTO S GIDAYA AFP(RET)	2001- 2003
BGEN JOSE C BELLO AFP(RET)	2004- 2006
BGEN JAIME C ECHEVERRIA AFP(RET)	2007- 2010 (10 Feb)
LTGEN RAUL URGELLO AFP(RET)	2010- 2012
LTGEN EDILBERTO P ADAN AFP(RET)	2013- 2016
LTGEN EDGARDO E BATENGA AFP(RET)	2017
LTGEN RAUL S URGELLO AFP(RET)	2018
MGEN ALPHONSUS P CRUCERO AFP(RET)	2019-2021
VADM EMILIO C MARAYAG JR AFP(RET)	2022-present

PURPOSES OF AGFO

- To work for and defend, as we have done in the past, the preservation of the Republic of the Philippines so that justice, liberty and democracy shall always prevail,
- To render assistance to any undertaking for the advancement of the general welfare of the people;
- To render assistance or take any action necessary to maintain the high state of morale, esprit de corps, and discipline in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, so that it will always be in peak efficiency for better service to country and people;
- To render assistance or take any action necessary to protect and advance the welfare of Philippine veterans of all wars;
- To work for the advancement and the protection of the welfare and interest of the retired officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- To set an example to all officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines of the spirit of camaraderie, military courtesy and proper conduct and decorum so as to preserve and honorable tradition;
- To the extent permitted by law, to acquire by purchase of lease, or otherwise, land and interest in land as may be necessary or incidental to carry out the affairs and objectives of the association;
- To borrow money and to make notes and other evidences of indebtedness as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of the association, and, when necessary, to secure the same by mortgage, pledge or by any other lawful manner of securing obligations;
- To do and perform such other things which are incidental or conducive to the accomplishment of the above purposes and objectives.

“...Duyan ka
ng Magiting”



AGFO Center, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Q.C.