

# Reserve Force Development

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# Background

- Reserve Forces have been part of established state military forces
- Economical force multipliers; supplements regular force when needed
- Citizens military - an army of the people
- Taps expertise in different fields

# The Philippine Experience: A Historical Summary

- 1935: National Defense Act provided for basic structure of the Philippine armed forces
- Small regular force; large reserve force
- Mass training: Annually 40,000 reservists a year, in two 5 1/2 month training periods
- Reserve NCOs to be provided through the School for Reserve Commission, an additional 5 1/2 month schedule
- Reserve officers through the Reserve Officers Service School (for professionals), Reserve Officer Training School (for teachers) and Reserve Officer Training Corps in colleges and universities

- Test mobilizations to be held regularly
- Pre-military training in High School
- Main missions: internal security; national defence against external threats
- Overseen by US Army officers under Gen. Douglas MacArthur
- provisions to reservists in the Air Corps and Offshore Patrol
- criticisms to the program: half baked officers and men, insufficient field exercises, budgetary and political issues
- Full mobilization in July 1941 ordered; World War II experience

# The World War II experience

- Defects in the reservist program - mass training of limited use in the conventional phase; some reserve officers stood out, but others fell short
- Conventional phase ended with surrender in May 1942
- Unconventional phase began while conventional phase was being fought
- Guerrilla operations fought with reserves and volunteers, some regulars - with significant impact. ROTC cadets and others
- Active participation in the liberation operations with American forces in 1944-1945

# Post-World War II Development

- Revision of the reserve training programs - mass training reduced, ROTC given more focus. Field exercises.
- Provision for integrating reservists into the regular force
- Professionals in the reserves
- Urgent need in the early post war years due to armed threats against government (Hukbalahap, private armies)
- Non-military functions: protecting elections, disaster relief
- US Bases for external security

# The Reserve Program during the Martial Law Regime

- Reservists called to active duty for nation building, Home Defense and combat (New People's Army; Moro National Liberation Front)
- Citizens Army through mandatory training in high school and college/university - Citizens Military Training
- National Defense College of the Philippines
- Armed Forces of the Philippine Reserve Command - Army, Navy, Air Force
- Para-military civilian forces

- CMT became unpopular due to abuses, corruption, outmoded training methods
- Excesses committed by military and para-military units
- Growing discontent with one-man rule; end of martial law



# Post-1986; 1990s

- New Armed Forces of the Philippines
- 1991: Citizens Armed Force Act (Reservist Law of 1991)
- unpopularity of ROTC and its relegation to an optional course; National Service Training Program
- coup attempts against the administration
- continuing threats to the government through Communist groups and Muslim separationists; attempts at negotiation but also continued conflict
- Expanding responsibilities: environmental protection; curbing smuggling; transnational crime prevention; education; disaster relief, others
- Regional and international obligations

# 21st Century status and challenges

- At present, mass reserve training no longer in effect
- ROTC not mandatory, but there are moves to restore it (National Service Training Program - Civil Welfare Training Service as option)
- AFP Reserve Command
- Ready reservists (on constant alert and training, ready to mobilise)(over 100,000)
- Standby reservists (base for expansion; over 50,000)
- Professionals can be commissioned directly in the reserve force (lawyers, teachers, doctors, nurses and others)
- Basic Citizens Military Training; Reserve Officers Military Training
- National Defense College of the Philippines graduates
- Army, Navy, Air Force Reserve; Coast Guard Auxiliary

# Armed Forces Reserves in ASEAN

- Each member country of ASEAN has its own history of reserves in their respective armed forces
- While ASEAN is not a military alliance (unlike SEATO and NATO), cooperation with the armed forces is necessary given transnational and regional issues
- Links between active and reserve components would be important - greater understanding and mutually beneficial lessons
- Changing missions and orientations; shared problems and possible solutions

