

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1959



Introduced by: **REP. PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is the protector of the people and the State and its mission is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory. On the other hand, the government is constitutionally bound to promote professionalism in the armed forces. One effective way of realizing this is by providing adequate remuneration and benefits to its members.

By nature of their profession, members of the AFP are exposed to risks in the performance of their duty. At present, a considerable number of AFP personnel are assigned or attached to units engaged in combat operations against enemy forces, under hostile fire, wounded as a direct result of overt enemy action; or assigned or attached to combat support units directly aiding combat units or conducting rear area operations; or who are assigned or attached to headquarters of service support units located in combat areas or manning strategic detachments to secure and defend territories within a combat area; or, personnel assigned or attached to secure units tasked to secure vital installations.

Unfortunately, these brave men and women receive only a minimum of P180.00 to a maximum of P240.00 per month as combat duty pay, as authorized under Executive Order No. 1017 dated March 22, 1985.

This bill was crafted to express the concern of the legislature towards improving the welfare and living condition of the officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP. It intends to upgrade the present combat duty pay rate to 25% of the base pay of a Private and its equivalent in the Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy, subject to automatic adjustment in case of salary increases.

Beyond doubt, the enactment of this bill into law will greatly enhance the morale and operational effectiveness of the AFP. Hence, the earnest request for its immediate passage.

PROSPERO A. PICHAY, JR.



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AN ACT
INCREASING THE RATE OF COMBAT DUTY PAY OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED
PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy – The State shall promote professionalism and improve the morale and welfare of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines by providing adequate remuneration, incentives and other benefits.

SEC. 2. Combat Duty Pay – In order to enhance the welfare and professionalism of the AFP personnel, all officers and enlisted personnel assigned or attached to units directly engaged in combat operations, assigned or attached to combat support units, or at Headquarters of service support units located in combat areas or manning strategic detachment to secure and defend territories within a combat area, assigned or attached to secure vital installations, shall receive combat duty pay equivalent to twenty five percentum (25%) of the base pay of a Private in the Army or its equivalent in the PAF and PN subject to automatic adjustment in case of salary increase.

SEC. 3. Appropriations – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be supported from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Funds of the Annual Appropriations.

SEC. 4. Repealing clause – All laws, presidential decrees, presidential orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,