



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7304



Introduced by:
REPRESENTATIVES PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ and RODOLFO C. FARINAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Marine Corps ("PMC") was created through the Armed Forces of the Philippines ("AFP") General Orders nr. 319 s. 1950 issued by then Secretary of Defense Ramon Magsaysay to respond to the security threat of the emerging *Hukbalahap* insurgency in the mountains and plains of Central Luzon up to the present ISIS-inspired revolution right in the heartland of Marawi, Mindanao.

Although the PMC has lived up to its mandate, its lack of Charter has caused institutional challenges, including but not limited to fiscal and organizational restrictions. Despite these, the PMC has provided seamless transition of military power between sea and land domains.

The men and women of the PMC have served and responded to the call of duty gallantly. During the 1960s, the PMC spearheaded the conduct of strategic maneuvers against the *Hukbalahap*. In the 80s, they were the force that upheld the stability of the country during EDSA people power. In the 90s, the lawlessness of terrorist groups down South was curtailed by the PMC. In the 2000s, they were one of the main players in the fall of Camp Abu Bakr. On that same decade, they were the force combating

terrorists in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. During the 2010s, a decade known for natural disasters, the vigorous men and women of the PMC are everywhere to alleviate the impact of disasters to the Filipino people.

Much blood has been spilled, lessons learned and experience gained in the service of the Filipino people with the loss of 1,437 men since 1950. In the 2017 Battle of Marawi alone, 36 brave souls gave their lives for the motherland. These men and women might be few but they remain proud, always faithful in their sworn honored duty to country for the last 67 years.

This bills seeks to establish the PMC as a branch of service, distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy under the AFP. This aims to institutionalize PMC as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in character, and a maneuver force in readiness of AFP that includes seaborne, land, combat, and support services, among others.

The archipelagic nature of the Philippines necessitates the imperative need for an expanded, rapidly deployable amphibious maneuver force primarily mandated to conduct seaborne, sustained on-shore, multinational cooperation and engagements for the protection of its 7,641 islands and islets, the communities and the people therein, as well as respond to the needs of a nation prone to natural disasters.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ



RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS



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

1 **SECTION. 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the
2 *“Philippine Marine Corps Act”*.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – In accordance with Section 3,
5 Article II of the Constitution that mandates the supremacy of civilian
6 authority over the military, and Section 4, Article XVI of the same that
7 provides “the Armed Forces of the Philippines (“AFP”) shall be
8 composed of a citizen armed force that shall undergo military training
9 and serve, as may be provided by law”, it is hereby declared the policy
10 of the State to maintain, organize, and enhance the AFP for the
11 continuing development of national defense to maintain peace and
12 order.

13
14 **SEC. 3. *Establishment.*** - The Philippine Marine Corps, (“PMC”),
15 is hereby established as an armed uniformed service, amphibious in
16 character; distinct, autonomous, but complementary to the Army, the
17 Air Force and the Navy, as an independent branch of service of the AFP.

1 The PMC shall include ground combat, combat support, combat
2 service support, aviation component, and such other units as may be
3 necessary for the pursuit of its mandate.
4

5 **SEC. 4. Powers and Functions.** – The PMC shall have the following
6 powers and functions:

- 7 (a) To conduct combined arms operations in the littoral battle
8 space and beyond under the AFP;
- 9 (b) To coordinate with the other branches of service in
10 developing various phases of amphibious operations,
11 which pertain to the tactics, techniques, and procedures
12 with the necessary equipment employed by landing
13 forces and that of a joint maneuver force;
- 14 (c) To organize, train, equip, maintain, develop, deploy, and
15 supervise the PMC Reserve Force ("PMCRF") for the
16 purpose of assisting the PMC in carrying out its
17 functions;
- 18 (d) To formulate and develop doctrines, concepts, systems,
19 policies, procedures, strategies, tactics, and techniques for
20 operations peculiar to the Marines;
- 21 (e) To develop its capabilities for seaborne maneuvers;
22 sustain maneuver ashore; and multinational cooperation
23 and engagement that is amphibious in character, multi-
24 role in nature, a seaborne arms force with on-shore
25 defense capability possessing combined arms with
26 supporting air components ensuring its capability and
27 effectiveness as a major combatant in the protection of the
28 islands of the Philippine Archipelago;
- 29 (f) To establish bases and facilities for the realization of its
30 operational potential;
- 31 (g) To utilize Information Technology, and technological
32 innovations to advance the pursuit of its mandate;
- 33 (h) To deploy such forces necessary for strategic defense
34 under the Joint Defense Force and for employment of
35 operational commands;
- 36 (i) To deploy forces for disaster response, relief, and
37 rehabilitation efforts of the AFP;
- 38 (j) To deploy forces in support to the law enforcement
39 agencies in the performance of their duties and
40 responsibilities in implementing the laws of the land;

- 1 (k) To perform such other functions that may be necessary in
2 the attainment of the objectives of this Act; and
3 (l) To determine its requirements which shall be addressed
4 by a fiscal allocation and modernization efforts of the
5 Department of National Defense ("DND").
6

7 **SEC. 5. *Philippine Marine Corps Bases and Facilities.*** – To carry
8 out the powers and functions of the PMC and the enhancement of its
9 capabilities, three (3) PMC Headquarters, shall be established—one (1)
10 in Luzon, one (1) in Visayas, and one (1) in Mindanao. The PMC
11 Headquarters in Mindanao shall serve as the National Headquarters of
12 the PMC. All of the PMC Headquarters shall be in strategic locations
13 where it can sustain its deployed forces given both spectrums of war
14 condition. A Marine Division may be established to effectively respond
15 to the needs of the operational commands based on its distinct
16 characteristics and operating concept, as may deem necessary.
17

18 **SEC. 6. *PMC Commandant.*** – The Commandant shall head the
19 PMC, and shall carry the rank of Lieutenant General. The Commandant
20 shall be directly appointed by the President from among its Marine
21 Corps Generals, upon the recommendation of the AFP Chief-of-Staff and
22 the Secretary of the DND.
23

24 **SEC. 7. *Creation of the Marine Reserve Component.*** – The PMC
25 shall maintain, supervise, develop and train the PMC Reservists as a
26 reserve force under the direct control and supervision of the PMC
27 Commandant and shall assist the PMC in the conduct of efforts on force
28 development as a whole.
29

30 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Commandant
31 of the PMC shall promulgate rules and regulations for the
32 implementation of this Act, as well as the provision of acts, decrees, and
33 orders, related to the implementation of the PMC functions, to be
34 approved by the President and the Commander-in-Chief, with the
35 conformity of the Secretary of DND, and recommendation by the Chief-
36 of-Staff of the AFP.
37

38 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The PMC Commandant shall
39 immediately prepare the necessary guidelines to cover the establishment
40 of the PMC as a service branch of the AFP, the initial funding of which

1 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the PMC
2 and, thereafter, in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
3

4 **SEC 10. *Transitory Provisions.*** –The incumbent two-star officer,
5 Major General, shall be the Acting PMC Commandant, pending the
6 appointment by the President. Likewise, the existing organizational
7 structure of the PMC shall be followed until new rules and regulations
8 have been promulgated, and approved by the President.
9

10 Further, this Act shall not diminish, reduce, or remove the existing
11 benefits and privileges of PMC personnel under existing laws, rules, and
12 regulations.
13

14 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any provision of
15 this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid; such parts not affected
16 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
17

18 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
19 rules and regulations and other issuance's or parts thereof which are
20 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
21 accordingly.
22

23 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
24 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers
25 of general circulation.
26

27 *Approved,*