

HISTORY

702ND INFANTRY (DEFENDER) BRIGADE

In October 1987, Tactical Control Groups (TCGs) were organized by the 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army to effectively command and control its four (4) maneuver battalions (24IB, 60IB, 68IB, 69IB) and combat supports units in Central Luzon. Initially, Tactical Control Group West was deployed at Brgy Camacho, Balanga, Bataan that conducted counter-insurgency operations in Central Luzon at a time when the **CPP/NPA** was gaining strength in Region III.

Tactical Control Group West was upgraded and became 702nd Infantry Brigade on 01 September 1988 pursuant to GO Nr 397, HPA dated 23 August 1988, with **COL LIBERATO O MANUEL** as the first Commanding Officer. In 01 December 1989, **COL RENE S DADO** assumed command of 702nd Infantry Brigade with four battalions namely; 24IB, 56IB, 68IB and 69IB.

With the changing situation in its operational areas, the Brigade was relocated several times from Pampanga, Tarlac, and Pangasinan in order to have effective command and control in its maneuver battalions. In 1991, the Brigade shifted operations from Central Luzon to the Cordilleras. The Brigade moved its headquarters to Bontoc Mountain province then subsequently to Tiger Hill, Baguio, Kiangin, Ifugao primarily for SOT operations which resulted to the dismantling of several guerilla fronts in two years.

In July 1993, **COL ARTURO B CARRILLO** assumed command. Combat and Civil-Military Operations were sustained and earned significant accomplishment and had proven itself to be the champion and defender of the people of Cordilleras where it got the moniker "**Defender**". In December 1994, counter-insurgency operations in Ifugao was transferred to 5ID and the Brigade was transferred to Bauko, Mountain Province then to Tayum, Abra.

In January 1997, **COL ARSENIO L TECSON** assumed command of the unit. Three months later, the unit was designated as Rapid Deployment Force of 7ID pursuant to GO Nr 383, H7ID dated 18 April 1997. The Brigade was then moved to Laur, Nueva Ecija with only 56th Infantry Battalion, Light Armor Company and Artillery Battery as its OPCON unit. Then 70th and 71st Infantry Battalions were placed OPCON to the Brigade. In September 1997, its role as Rapid Deployment Force was terminated and was deployed on the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Aurora as its AOR and Eastern Pangasinan in early 1998.

BGEN TECSON was succeeded by **COL GLENN J RABONZA** on September 1999. And in August 2000, Brigade Headquarters found its new home in Barangay Calaanan, Bongabon Nueva Ecija.

In January 2001, **BGEN TECSON** acted as OIC of the Brigade when **COL RABONZA** was designated as Commander of the Presidential Security Group (PSG). On 01 June 2001 **COL DIONISIO A TORINA INF (GSC) PA** assumed command. During his stint, Internal Security Operations (ISO) was intensified through the Brigade Campaign Plan “TUGIS” 2001 with the mission to dismantle the CPP-NPA’s provincial committees in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Aurora.

In April 2002, **COL JOVENAL D NARCISE** took over the command of the Brigade which he subsequently relinquished to **COL RUBEN O RAFAEL** in 11 August 2004. In 07 March 2005, **COL RICARDO Q GARCIA** assumed command of the Brigade up to 12 Sept 2006.

In 12 September 2006, **COL ANTHONY J ALCANTARA** assumed the command of Brigade. During his term, the Brigade continued its massive TRIAD operations to dismantle the remnants of **KLG/ NE PCOM**.

On 14 March 2008, **COL EMMANUEL T BAUTISTA** assumed command of the Brigade. Under his term, Brigade Campaign Plan “SAFEGUARD” which anchored on the AFP’s mission on “defeating the CTM before the end of CY 2010”. This led to the dissolution of SPP of Aurora and Nueva Ecija which resulted to the “snowballing” of surrenderees forcing them to reorganize and sought sanctuary outside of the AOR.

In 05 August 2009, **COL FELICITO VIRGILIO M TRINIDAD JR** took over as the commander of the Brigade. This time the Brigade area of operations covers the whole province of Aurora, Dinapigue of Isabela, six (6) towns of Nueva Vizcaya, Eatsren Pangasinan and the Province of Nueva Ecija, except 4th District. During his stint, the Brigade continued its thrust to defeat the CTM up to end of 2010. In 2010, Fragmentary Orders “Sandigan” was issued that pave away to the declaration of insurgency-free and hand-over of the tree (3) provinces within its AOR namely Aurora, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan to the local government.

On the other hand, with the advent of IPSP Bayanihan in 2011, and as operationalized by the Brigade’s **11 Bayanihan Programs** with “**Kapakanan Mo, Pahahalagahan Ko**” as its motto, various community-based development projects were undertaken and completed. And as part of its non-traditional role, the Brigade was also involved in the conduct of rescue and relief operations when four (4) typhoons (Typhoon **Pepeng** – 2009, Typhoon **Juan** – 2010, Typhoons **Pedring** and **Quiel** – 2010) hit and brought massive devastation to the provinces of Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Bulacan.

On 24 February 2012, **COL HENRY G SABARRE** was designated as OIC of the Brigade. During his stint, the Brigade continuously conducted focused military operations within its AOR which led to the neutralization of known CTM members and secretary of **SDG NE-AUR** and led to the recovery of numerous high and low powered firearms.

On 26 March 2012, / **COL VIC C CASTRO** assumed command / when **COL HENRY G SABARRE** was designated as the commander of 703Bde. / This time, / The Brigade headquarters was relocated at Cp Andres Malong, / Brgy San Isidro, Binmaley, Pangasinan on 12 October 2013. / The area of operation comprises; / Pangasinan, / Nueva Ecija, / Nueva Vizcaya, / Aurora, / Quirino. / To effectively accomplish its mission, / 81IB, 56IB, 3IB, / 72 DRC was placed OPCON to the Brigade. / During his stint, / the unit was able to conduct focused on civil military opns / which resulted to neutralization of numerous communist terrorist / and lawless elements / and recovery of several high / and low powered firearms / and assorted ammunitions. /

In 07 February 2014, / **COL NICK Q ALARCIO INF (GSC) PA** / Deputy Bde Cmdr was designated as OIC / and subsequently became Acting Commander / on 30 March 2014. / One (1) month later / the Bde was relocated / from Brgy San Isidro, Binmaley / to Cp Tito B Abat, / Brgy Calaocan, Manaoag Pangasinan. / Its area of operation covers / the Provinces of Tarlac, / Pangasinan, / Nueva Ecija, / Nueva Vizcaya, / Aurora and Quirino. /

On 21 May 2014, / **COL DAVID B DICIANO INF (GSC) PA** / assumed command of the Brigade. / On 01 July 2014, / the Bde assumed its new Area of Responsibility / by virtue of **FRAG – O 01-2014 of 7ID** / covering the provinces of Pangasinan / except 5 Municipalities of 6th District, / La Union, / Ilocos Sur (except Municipalities of San Emilio, / Cervantes / and Quirino) / and **Ilocos Norte all of Region 1, / Pampanga, / Bataan, / Zambales and Tarlac / all of Region 3.** /

To date, / through the leadership of **COL DICIANO**, / the Bde continue to perform its mandated tasks / with the support of the different stakeholders / particularly the local government units agencies / in bringing peace / and development agenda / of the national government / through the IPSP “Bayanihan. / With this, / the Bde maintain its **honor** / as “**DEFENDER**” / and **true protector of the people** / and nation as a whole. /