

HISTORY OF THE 71ST INFANTRY (KAIBIGAN) BATTALION, 7ID, PA

THE 71ST INFANTRY BATTALION, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY, BETTER KNOWN AS "**KAIBIGAN**", CAME TO EXISTENCE AND ACTIVATED INTO AN INFANTRY BATTALION ON 15 JULY 1988, PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDERS NR 350 HPA DATED 15 JULY 1988. WHEN GHQ BRIGADE (SEP) WAS DEACTIVATED ON 06 JULY 1988 BY VIRTUE OF GENERAL ORDERS NR 391 GHQ, AFP DTD 16 JULY 1988, THE RESOURCES OF 2ND GHQ BATTALION, GHQ BRIGADE IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WAS TRANSFERRED TO PHILIPPINE ARMY, SPECIFICALLY TO 71ST INF BN.

UPON ACTIVATION, THE UNIT WAS INITIALLY EXPOSED TO THE ZONE OF ACTION IN THE FIELD WHERE IT ESTABLISHED COMMAND POST AT BRGY BICAL, MUNOZ, NUEVA ECIJA, WITH ITS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY COVERING THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA (EXCLUDING PALAYAN CITY, GABALDON & BONGABON); THE EIGHT (8) MUNICIPALITIES OF EASTERN PANGASINAN; AND ALFONSO CASTANEDA, NUEVA VISCAYA.

WHEN TASK FORCE "KAUGNAY" OF THE 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY WAS DEACTIVATED ON NOVEMBER 1990, THE BATTALION'S AOR WAS RE-DEFINED AND RE-DEPLOYED ITS FORCES WITHIN THE 703RD BDE, 7ID AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY AND SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED ITS BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AT BRGY NAMULANDAYAN, LUPAO, NUEVA ECIJA.

IN CONSONANCE TO THE OPLAN "LIPAT BAHAY" 02-91 OF THE 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELIEF-IN-PLACE OPERATION, ON OCTOBER 1991, THE UNIT'S AOR WAS AGAIN RE-DEFINED WHICH INCLUDES THE WHOLE NUEVA VIZCAYA EXCEPT ALFONSO CASTANEDA. THE BATTALION HEADQUARTERS WAS AGAIN MOVED TO BRGY BASCARAN, SOLANO, NUEVA VIZCAYA IN AUGUST 1992, AND TASKED TO OCCUPY THE AREA VACATED BY THE 502ND BDE, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY. EVENTUALLY, THE UNIT ESTABLISHED ITS HEADQUARTERS AT BRGY VILLAROS, BAGABAG, NUEVA VIZCAYA WITH ITS AOR REMAINS THE SAME.

ON MARCH 1994, THE BATTALION MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS TO BRGY SAN ISIDRO, SAN LUIS, AURORA WITH ITS AOR COVERING THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF AURORA; SIX (6) TOWNS OF NUEVA ECIJA; ALFONSO CASTANEDA, NUEVA VIZCAYA, AND DINAPIGUE, ISABELA, CONSISTING OF TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR (284) BARANGAYS.

ON SEPTEMBER 1995, PURSUANT TO OPLAN "KAPILING CINCO", THE BATTALION MOVED TO EAST POBLACION, PANTABANGAN, NUEVA ECIJA, IN PREPARATION FOR REFURBISHING AND RETRAINING PURPOSES, WITH ITS AOR COMPRISES NORTH EASTERN MUNICIPALITIES OF BULACAN AND CENTRAL AURORA PROVINCE.

TO ENHANCE THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS AND PROFICIENCY OF THE BATTALION FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE MISSION, THE UNIT WAS RELIEVED-IN-PLACE BY 70IB, 7ID, PA ON THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1996 FOR A RETRAINING WHICH COMMENCED ON 04 MARCH 1996 AT HEADQUARTERS 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY IN FORT MAGSAYSAY, PALAYAN CITY.

AFTER ITS RETRAINING, THE BATTALION WAS TASKED TO REPRESENT THE AFP CONTINGENT DURING THE PA-SAF JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE OF ANOASINGA 04-96, WITH THE 3RD SINGAPORE INFANTRY REGIMENT, SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES AT CAMP BEDOK, SINGAPORE FROM 13-24 MAY 1996. AFTERWHICH, THE BATTALION RETURNED TO FORT MAGSAYSAY, PALAYAN CITY AND ACT AS THE DIVISION RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE.

ON SEPTEMBER 1996, THE BATTALION WAS PLACED OPCON TO 703RD BRIGADE, 7ID, PA FOR SECURITY OPERATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE APEC MEETING IN ZAMBALES, SECURING DESIGNATED AREAS AT THE SBMA COMPLEX. THE BATTALION WAS THEN RELOCATED TO CASTELLEJOS, ZAMBALES WITH ITS AOR COMPRISING FOUR (4) MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN MARCELINO; CASTELLEJOS; SUBIC; AND OLONGAPO CITY, PURSUANT TO OPLAN "SALIKOP" 03-96. AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF ITS SECURITY MISSION, THE BATTALION RETURNED TO FORT MAGSAYSAY, PALAYAN CITY AGAIN AS THE DIVISION RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE.

FORTUNATELY, ON 22 APRIL 1997, THE 71IB, 7ID, PA WAS PLACED OPCON TO 702BDE, 7ID, PA, PER GENERAL ORDERS NR 392, H7ID, PA AND ESTABLISHED ITS BATTALION HEADQUARTERS CO-LOCATED WITH THE HQS, 702ND BRIGADE AT CANANTONG, LAUR, NUEVA ECIJA ON 13 MAY 1997.

ON 08 MARCH 2000, THE BATTALION OCCUPIED A STRATEGIC LOCATION AT SO. JUNIOR CAMPO, BRGY STO NINO II SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA. ITS AREA OF OPERATION COVERS THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA EXCEPT ITS EIGHT (8) SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES; THE MUNICIPALITY OF DINGALAN, AURORA PROVINCE; AND THIRTEEN (13) MUNICIPALITIES OF EASTERN PANGASINAN.

ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2004, THE BATTALION OCCUPIED SITIO MUNTING ISABEL, BRGY CANANTONG, LAUR, NUEVA ECIJA. ASIDE FROM ITS MANDATED TASK TO PRESERVE FORT MAGSAYSAY MILITARY RESERVATION AREA, THE UNIT WITH THE SAME AOR INCLUDING THE FIVE (5) MUNICIPALITIES OF BULACAN (NORZAGARAY, MEYCAUAYAN, BUSTOS, ANGAT AND GUIGUINTO), WAS TASKED TO ORGANIZE AND ESTABLISH INTERNAL TERRITORIAL DEFENSE SYSTEM (BDS).

ON 05 OCTOBER 2005, THE BATTALION ESTABLISHED TACTICAL COMMAND POST AT BRGY BACAYAO, GUIMBA, NUEVA ECIJA, WITH THE MISSION TO CONDUCT INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATION (ISO) AND SOT OPERATIONS WITHIN ITS AREA OF OPERATION, COVERING THE PROVINCES OF PANGASINAN; TARLAC (EXCEPT THE TWO (2) SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES OF BAMBAN AND CONCEPCION); AND THIRTEEN (13) MUNICIPALITIES OF WESTERN NUEVA ECIJA (ALIAGA, CABANATUAN CITY, CUYAPO, GUIMBA, STO DOMINGO, LICAB, QUEZON, MUÑOZ, TALAVERA, NAMPICUAN, LUPAO, TALUGTOG AND ZARAGOSA).

IN 2006, THE UNIT CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE OVERALL CAMPAIGN OF THE DIVISION IN CENTRAL LUZON, WHEREIN TWO (2) PLATOONS OF NPA REGULARS OF NUEVA ECIJA PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE (NEPCOM) SURRENDERED TO THE UNIT THROUGH THE MASSIVE CONDUCT OF SOT OPN.

IN 2007 AND 2008, THE UNIT FOLLOWED-THROUGH ITS SOT OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCES OF NUEVA ECIJA AND EASTERN PANGASINAN, WHERE IT GAINED AN ENVIABLE REPUTATION AS A WELL-HONED FIGHTING MACHINE, BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIMATING COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IN THE NPA- INFESTED AREAS AND PAVED THE WAY FOR THE EVENTUAL LIBERATION OF CIVILIAN POPULACE FROM DOMINATION AND TENTACLES OF THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT. THESE NON-COMBAT OPERATIONS RESULTED TO THE DECIMATION OF THE CONFRONTED ENEMY TO SPP-NE, (A PLATOON-SIZE FORMATION OF NPA RED FIGHTERS) EMBEDDED WITH PARTY ELEMENTS. THESE ALSO RESULTED TO THE CLEARING OF AFFECTED BARANGAYS AS CONFIRMED BY THE SURRENDEREES DURING THEIR REVEALATIONS.

ON 19 JULY 2008, IN ORDER TO COVER THE AREAS VACATED BY 69IB WHO WAS TASKED BY HIGHER HQS TO UNDERGO RETRAINING, THE BATTALION ESTABLISHED ITS TACTICAL COMMAND POST BACK TO SITIO JUNIOR CAMPO, BRGY SANTO NINO 2ND, SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA, COVERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF NUEVA ECIJA (EXCEPT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF JAEN, SAN ISIDRO, PENARANDA, GAPAN, GEN TINIO AND CABIAO), MUNICIPALITIES IN THE 5TH AND 6TH DISTRICT OF PANGASINAN; THE MUNICIPALITY OF DINGALAN, AURORA; AND MUNICIPALITY OF ALFONSO CASTANEDA, NUEVA VIZCAYA.

TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM AND GAIN SIGNIFICANT BLOW AGAINST THE SPP-NE, IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2009, THE UNIT CONDUCTED MASSIVE COMBAT OPERATIONS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS TRI-BOUNDARY OF NUEVA ECIJA, NUEVA VIZCAYA AND AURORA PROVINCES.

DURING COMBAT AND INTEL OPERATIONS, THE BATTALION HAS REGISTERED SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS TOTALLING TO FOURTEEN (14) MAJOR ENCOUNTERS THAT FURTHER RESULTED TO THE KILLING OF EIGHT (8) CTS, ONE (1) CAPTURED AND NINE (9) CTS SURRENDERED; RECOVERY OF THIRTEEN (13) HPFAS; LAPTOP; ICOM IC-V8 HH RADIO; SEVENTEEN (17) ANTI-PERS/TANK MINES, FOODSTUFFS; ASSORTED AMMUNITION AND OTHER ITEMS; AND SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS OF HIGH INTELLIGENCE VALUES, AND DISCOVERY OF FIVE (5) ENEMY ENCAMPMENTS.

THE SUCCESSFUL TRIAD OPERATIONS CAUSED THE MERGING OF SPP-NE AND SPP-CENTRAL AURORA. THE TWO SPP'S FORMED PART OF THE SDG NE-AURORA.

TO FURTHER DENY THE CONFRONTED ENEMY (SPP NE- AURORA) OF ITS MASS BASE, IN THE SAME YEAR, THE UNIT WAS GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL AO IN AURORA AND NUEVA VIZCAYA. SOT OPERATIONS WERE BEING CONDUCTED IN MARIA AURORA AND SAN LUIS OF AURORA PROVINCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MUNICIPALITIES OF STA FE, DUPAX DEL SUR, DUPAX DEL NORTE AND KAYAPA, ALL OF NUEVA VIZCAYA WERE GIVEN AS THE EXPANSION AREA FOR COMBAT OPERATIONS.

ON 01 AUGUST SAME YEAR, THE UNIT WAS RECOGNIZED AS "BEST MANEUVER BATTALION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009" OF 7ID FOR ITS VARIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

ON OCTOBER SAME YEAR, THE UNIT TOOK PART IN THE SIMULTANEOUS DISASTER, RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS IN EASTERN PANGASINAN, CARRANGLAN AND RIZAL, NUEVA ECIJA MOST NOTABLE DURING THE ONSLAUGHT OF TYPHOON "ONDOY" AND "PEPENG".

ON 26 FEBRUARY 2010, THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF 702BDE WITH THE UNIT WAS TERMINATED AND SUBSEQUENTLY VACATED SITIO JUNIOR CAMPO, BRGY SANTO NINO 2ND, SAN JOSE CITY, N.E AND PROCEEDED AT THE HOME OF 7TH INFANTRY (KAUGNAY) DIVISION, FORT MAGSAYSAY, NUEVA ECIJA, TO UNDERGO "BATTALION OF EXCELLENCE" TRAINING.

ON 03 MARCH 2010, THE FIRST EVER BATTALION OF EXCELLENCE (BOE) PROGRAM WAS STARTED WHICH WAS CONDUCTED BY TRADOC, PHIL ARMY AS PART OF THE PHILIPPINE DEFENSE REFORM OF THE AFP. THE TRAINING PHASE ENDED ON 03 MAY 2010.

FROM 10-19 MARCH 2010, THE UNIT JOINED IN THE CONDUCT OF RP-US BALIKATAN 2010 (BK 10) AT FORT MAGSAYSAY WITH THE ELEMENTS OF 1/294TH BN, GUAM NATIONAL GUARD OF THE US ARMY AS COUNTERPART.

ON 03 MAY 2010, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CLOSING OF BOE, THE UNIT WAS DEPLOYED AND PLACED OPCON UNDER THE JOINT TASK FORCE LAND, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGIONAL COMMAND, TO PERFORM ELECTION-RELATED DUTIES IN METRO MANILA AREA DURING AND AFTER THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS ON 10 MAY 2010, WHEREIN THE UNIT WAS AWARDED AN ELECTION DUTY BADGE FOR THE SUPPORT RENDERED TO THE COMELEC IN HOLDING AN HONEST, ORDERLY, PEACEFUL, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS.

RIGHT AFTER THE TERMINATION OF DUTIES WITH NCRCOM, ON 14 MAY 2010, THE ADVANCE PARTY OF THE UNIT WAS AIRLIFTED TO MINDANAO AND DEPLOYED IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE- THE UNIT'S FIRST ASSIGNMENT OUTSIDE LUZON AREA.

ON OR ABOUT 24 MAY 2010, THE MAIN BODY OF THE BATTALION ARRIVED AT HIJO PORT, MACO, COMVAL THRU PHIL NAVY VESSEL (BRP BACOLOD CITY), AND IMMEDIATELY OCCUPIED A TEMPORARY BASE AT H10DTU, BRGY TUBURAN, MAWAB, COMVAL, NOW THE HOME OF 10TH INFANTRY (AGILA) DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY. UNTIL ON 26 JUNE 2010, THE BATTALION ESTABLISHED ITS TACTICAL COMMAND POST HEREAT BRGY KINGKING, PANTUKAN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY, PROVINCE COVERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MACO, MABINI AND PANTUKAN, ALL OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY, PROVINCE.

AS MANDATED, THE 71IB SHIFT ITS MISSION FROM A PREDOMINANTLY MILITARISTIC SOLUTION TO A PEOPLE-CENTERED STRATEGY BY INTRODUCING THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (BAYANIHAN) WHICH AIMS TO ADDRESS REBELLION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

CONSCIOUS AND CONCERN FOR THE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE OF EVERY INDIVIDUALS, THE UNIT INITIATED THE LAUNCHING OF TAEBOO EXERCISES IN THE LOCALITY WHEREIN THE CIVILIAN POPULACE WERE VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE PROGRAMS, AND AS A MATTER OF FACT, DIFFERENT BRGY COUNCILS ALL OVER THE AOR REQUESTED FOR THE REGULAR CONDUCT OF THIS FITNESS PROGRAM IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PLACE.

MOREOVER, BECAUSE OF THE UNIT'S REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RESPONSE, MOST NOTABLY THE FLASHFLOODS/LANDSLIDES THAT OCCURRED IN (MASARA LINES) SO PANAGASON, BRGY NAPNAPAN, PANTUKAN, COMVAL PROV, THE UNIT WAS RECOMMENDED TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR SEARCH OF THE BEST PREPARED LOCAL DISASTER AND RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT CENTER (LDRRMC) AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011, THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS AWARD OF "**GAWAD KALASAG**".

NOW, THE 71ST INFANTRY BATTALION, WHICH IS STILL THE PRIDE OF PHILIPPINE ARMY AND TAGGED AS ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE UNIT IN THE ARMY, SERVES AS AMBASSADOR OF GOODWILL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RENDERING HUMANITARIAN SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AND LIKewise, AS THE REDEEMER OF FREEDOM THAT SERVES AS THE FOUNDATION OF A PEACEFUL SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINED SOCIO-POLITICAL STABILITY AND CONTINUING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE COUNTRY.

BEFORE I END THE UNIT HISTORY, LET ME READ THE DIFFERENT COMMANDERS THAT SERVED THIS UNIT. THE 71ST KAIBIGAN BATTALION WAS FIRST COMMANDED BY THEN:

1. MAJ PEDRO O GUTTIEREZ (INF) PA – SEP 1987-10 JAN 1990
2. MAJ LEONARDO S DELA FUENTE (FA) PA – 10 JAN 90- 10 MAY 91
3. LTC NELSON F ANGELLANO (FA) PA – 10 MAY 91-10 OCT 91
4. MAJ TRIFINO P SALAZAR (INF) PA – 10 OCT 91-10 JUN 93
5. MAJ LIRIO M AYAP (INF) PA – 10 JUN 93-17 JUN 95
6. MAJ JOSE R RECUENCO (INF) PA – 17 JUN 95-12 JAN 96
7. LTC ROMEO P ESPIRITU (INF) PA – 27 JAN 96-27 JAN 98
8. LTC ORLANDO E ASTRERO (INF) PA – 27 JAN 98-12 JUL 00
9. LTC WILIAM S CAMPOS FA (GSC) PA – 12 JUL 00 – 01 AUG 03
10. LTC BIENVENIDO GERARDO C CASIS JR INF (GSC) PA – 01 AUG 03 - 01 DEC 04
11. LTC GREGORY M CAYETANO INF (GSC) PA – 01 DEC 04 - 01 JUNE 07
12. LTC ALFREDO ROSARIO INF (GSC) PA – 01 JUNE 07 – 17 AUG 07
13. COL MEQUIADES L FELICIANO INF (GSC) PA – 17 AUG 07 TO 19 FEB 10
14. LTC CAMILO Z LIGAYO INF (GSC) PA – 19 FEB 2010 TO 16 APR 2012.
15. LTC JERRY TO BORJA INF (GSC) PA 16 APR 2012 TO 28 Nov 2013.
16. LTC DENIS M TANZO O-124800 INF (GSC) PA 28 Nov 2013 TO DATE

PLEASE ALLOW ME ALSO, TO DISCUSS THE UNIT SYMBOL:

71 IS THE NUMERICAL DESIGNATION OF THE BATTALION.

LAUREL SYMBOLIZES **PEACE** – THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNIT IN ANY AREA OF ASSIGNMENT, AND **HONOR** – THE FITTING REWARD FOR ATTAINING THE OBJECTIVE.

THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN ARE DEPICTED BY THE **TRIANGLE**, WHICH MEANS: **SERVICE, SINCERITY** AND **SACRIFICE**. IT IS COLORED **RED** TO SHOW FIRMNESS, AUDACITY AND STEADFASTNESS.

THE **BACKGROUND** MEANS THE MELLOW APPROACH IN WINNING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE PEOPLE. IT EMITS CHARISMA TO DRAW THE PEOPLE RALLY WITH SOLDIERS IN FIGHTING THE ENEMY OF THE STATE.

THE **FRAME** IS THE BARRIER WHICH PROTECT THE PERSONNEL FROM INTERNAL AND OUTSIDE DISSENSION, ITS UNITY AND STABILITY UNDER PRESSURE.

MOTTO

KAIBIGAN – KAIBIGAN AT GABAY NG MAMAMAYAN

