

THE 701ST INFANTRY (KAGITINGAN) BRIGADE IN A NUTSHELL

ACTIVATION

PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDERS NR 391 GENERAL HEADQUARTERS ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE 701ST INFANTRY (KAGITINGAN) BRIGADE WAS BORN AND ACTIVATED ON 16 JULY 1988 AND BECAME AN ORGANIC UNIT OF THE 7TH INFANTRY (KAUGNAY) DIVISION, PHILIPPINE ARMY. COLONEL FRANKLIN C ACOSTA WAS ITS FIRST COMMANDER.

PREVIOUS AREA OF ASSIGNMENTS

DUE TO THE ALARMING DESTABILIZATION THREATS THEN, THE UNIT WAS PLACED UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION DEFENSE COMMAND, WHERE IT SERVED AS A COUNTER-COUP FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES IN METRO MANILA. ASIDE FROM ITS PRIMARY MISSION OF QUELLING MILITARY UPRISINGS, THE BRIGADE WAS ALSO GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL TASK OF CONDUCTING COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN THE NEARBY PROVINCES OF RIZAL, CAVITE AND LAGUNA.

NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS IN METRO MANILA WHERE THE METTLE OF THE 701ST INFANTRY BRIGADE TROOPERS WAS FIRST PUT TO TEST. THE UNIT WAS CITED FOR ITS DISTINCT CONTRIBUTION IN FOILING THE AGGRESSIVE MOVEMENT OF THE REBOLUSYONARYONG ALYANSANG MAKABAYAN (RAM) DURING THE BLOODIEST FAILED COUP IN 1989.

ON 30 MARCH 1991, THE KAGITINGAN BRIGADE WAS ORDERED TO MOVE FROM MANILA TO BANGUED, ABRA, WHERE IT ASSUMED A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PACIFICATION DRIVE. IN ITS NEW FIELD OF ASSIGNMENT, THE BRIGADE EFFECTIVELY PURSUED ITS ROLE NOT ONLY IN ENSURING PEACE AND ORDER IN ITS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, BUT ALSO IN FIRING-UP CIVIL MILITARY RELATIONS, A BASIC ELEMENT IN ENSURING DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY IN FAR-FLANG AREAS.

AFTER RETRAINING AND REFURBISHING IN 1995, THE BRIGADE WAS DESIGNATED AS THE PHILIPPINE ARMY'S RAPID DEPLOYMENT BRIGADE.

SINCE THE GOVERNMENT'S ISO FOCUS THEN WAS IN MINDANAO, THE 701ST INFANTRY (KAGITINGAN) BRIGADE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY AND RELIEVED 602ND INFANTRY BRIGADE ON 25 SEPTEMBER 1995. ITS HEADQUARTERS WAS ESTABLISHED IN BRGY TUBORAN, MAWAB, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE. THE BRIGADE AND TWO (2) OF ITS THREE (3) MANEUVER BATTALIONS (72IB AND 73IB) WERE THEN MOVED FROM PALAYAN CITY TO MINDANAO, SPECIFICALLY IN REGION XI.

THE AREA OF OPERATION OF THE BRIGADE THEN COVERED ALL OF THE DAVAO PROVINCES EXCEPT DAVAO DEL SUR AND TWO (2) MUNICIPALITIES OF AGUSAN DEL

SUR, VERUELA AND STA JOSEFA. IT COVERED FOUR (4) CITIES THIRTY THREE (33) MUNICIPALITIES AND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY (730) BARANGAYS.

UPON ITS ARRIVAL IN MINDANAO, THE LEADERSHIP WAS TURNED-OVER TO THEN COLONEL OSCAR O CABARON. HE WAS LATER RELIEVED BY THEN COLONEL GENEROSO S SENGU WHO, LATER ON, ROSE TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF STAFF, AFP. IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT REFOCUSSED ITS EFFORT AGAINST THE MILF, THIS BRIGADE TOOK CHARGE OF HOLDING THE CTM IN THIS PORTION OF MINDANAO. COLONEL PEDRO M CURVA AND COLONEL REYNALDO BEROYA FOLLOWED AS BRIGADE COMMANDERS.

LATER, 701ST INFANTRY (KAGITINGAN) BRIGADE 7TH INFANTRY (KAUGNAY) DIVISION, PA WAS TRANSFERRED/REASSIGNED TO 4TH INFANTRY (DIAMOND) DIVISION, PA ON 16 JANUARY 2004, PURSUANT TO SECTION 1, GO NR 49, HPA. THE TRANSFER INCLUDED ALL PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND RECORDS OF THE UNIT. FURTHERMORE, PURSUANT TO SECTION II OF THE SAME ORDER, THE UNIT WAS RENAMED AS 404TH INFANTRY (PAG-ASA) BRIGADE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

REACTIVATION

ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2008, THE 701ST INFANTRY (KAGITINGAN) BRIGADE 7TH INFANTRY (KAUGNAY) DIVISION, PA WAS REACTIVATED EFFECTIVE 15 SEPTEMBER 2008 PURSUANT TO GENERAL ORDERS NR 441, HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE ARMY DATED 26 AUGUST 2008. COLONEL GOMINTO B PIRINO INF (GSC) PA ASSUMED AS ITS FIRST BRIGADE COMMANDER.

FROM 03 TO 09 OCTOBER 2008, THIS BRIGADE PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING AT H7ID, FT MAGSAYSAY, PALAYAN CITY. AFTER THE RETRAINING, THE BDE WAS DEPLOYED TO ITS NEW AOR, COVERING THE PROVINCES OF TARLAC, WESTERN AND CENTRAL PANGASINAN AND NORTHERN ZAMBALES. ITS AOR IS COMPRISED OF 3 PROVINCES, 6 CITIES, 74 MUNICIPALITIES, 2, 122 BARANGAYS WITH LAND AREA OF 11, 969 SQ KM AND INHABITED BY 4.1 MILLION POPULACE. IT IS NOW TEMPORARILY BASED IN BRGY BURGOS, SAN JOSE, TARLAC.

UNDER ITS OPN'L CONTROL ARE THE 24TH INFANTRY (WILDCAT) BATTALION, AND 3RD MECHANIZED INFANTRY (MAKATARUNGAN) BATTALION, LAD, PA, ASIDE FROM THE DIFFERENT COMBAT SUPPORT AND COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT UNITS ATTACHED TO THE BRIGADE.

THE BRIGADE IS CONFRONTING TWO (2) SPPs: SPP TARLAC AND SPP ZAMBALEZ, AND THE MLPP IN PANGASINAN.

ON 12 AUGUST 2010. COLONEL LEONIDO P BONGCAWIL CAV (GSC) PA ASSUMED AS ITS BRIGADE COMMANDER. THIS BRIGADE WAS TRANSFERRED IN THE AREA OF EASTERN MINDANAO COMMAND AND OPCON TO 10 INFANTRY (AGILA) DIVISION, PA EFFECTIVE 02 OCTOBER 2011. THE BRIGADE WAS DEPLOYED TO ITS NEW AOR, COVERING THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL AND HAS OPERATIONAL JURISDICTION OVER ONE (1) CITY, TEN (10) MUNICIPALITIES, ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY

THREE (183) BARANGAYS WITH OVER ALL FIVE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY SIX (516,446) SQUARE KILOMETERS AND HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO OVER MORE THAN (517,104) PEOPLE. THE BRIGADE IS NOW BASED IN SO MAGAY, BRGY DON MARTIN MARUNDAN, MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL.

UNDER ITS OPN'L CONTROL ARE THE 28TH INFANTRY (KAMAGONG) BATTALION AND 67TH INFANTRY (AGILA) BATTALION.

THE BRIGADE IS CONFRONTING THREE (3) GF15, 18, 20 AND THREE (3) PULANG BAGANI COMPANY (PBC) PBC 3,5 AND 8 IN DAVAO ORIENTAL.

WITH THE UNIT'S HUMBLE HISTORY THE "**KAGITINGAN**" TROOPERS SHALL BE FIRMLY GUIDED BY ITS NOBLE CREED, TO BE PROFESSIONAL, GOD – FEARING, SERVICE – ORIENTED AT ALL TIMES IN PERFORMING THEIR SWORN IN DUTIES.; THAT THE BRIGADE WILL ALWAYS BE COURAGEOUS AND AGGRESSIVE IN ITS QUEST TO QUASH THE INSURGENCY PROBLEM IN ORDER TO EVENTUALLY TRANSFORM OUR AOR INTO A PEACEFUL AND STABLE PLACE TRULY CONDUCIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

ON 24 FEBRUARY 2012. COLONEL REY LEONARDO B GUERRERO INF (GSC) PA ASSUMED AS ITS BRIGADE COMMANDER. BASED IN SO MAGAY, BRGY DON MARTIN MARUNDAN, MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL.

ON 29 JULY 2013. COLONEL BENJAMIN R MADRIGAL JR INF (GSC) PA ASSUMED AS ITS BRIGADE COMMANDER. THE BRIGADE WAS DEPLOYED TO ITS NEW AOR, COVERING THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL AND HAS OPERATIONAL JURISDICTION OVER ONE (1) CITY, TEN (10) MUNICIPALITIES, ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THREE (183) BARANGAYS WITH OVER ALL FIVE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FORTY SIX (516,446) SQUARE KILOMETERS AND HAS RESPONSIBILITY TO OVER MORE THAN (517,618) PEOPLE. THE BRIGADE IS NOW BASED IN SO MAGAY, BRGY DON MARTIN MARUNDAN, MATI CITY, DAVAO ORIENTAL AND ADDITIONAL ONE (1) MUNICIPALITY OF LINGIG, SDS WITH EIGHTEEN BRGY AND ONE MUNICIPLITY OF TRENTO, ADS WITH 16 BRGYS, IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE, 3 BRGY IN PANTUKAN; 2 BRGY IN MARAGUSAN; 1 BRGY IN COMPOSTELA; AND 1 BRGY IN NEW BATAAN WITH TOTAL OF 225 BRGYS; 392,469 HAS AND 626,111 POPULATION.