

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
Second OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

5 SEP -8 P.M.

SENATE RECEIVED BY:

S.B. No. 2118

Introduced by Senator RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A strong Republic in order for it to remain strong, effective and democratic must have a strong, competent and professional military service abreast of recent developments in the various branches of the service and capable of providing effective and specialized training and educational programs to its officers.

An Armed Forces composed of officers trained in a general and non-specific or non-specialized manner leaves room for the improvement and enhancement of its members and organization, specifically in the specialized branches of the service.

It should be the policy of the State to promote the professionalization of the armed service so that it may effectively carry-out its mandate of assuring the sovereign's defensive integrity and security.

As officers trained particularly for the specialized branch of service, they will be commissioned to ensure that that AFP and its various branches will be led by technically and professionally competent leaders.

This bill proposes the establishment of a Philippine Naval Academy (PNA) to train Naval Officers of the AFP. The instruction will be a 2-year program, basing from the minimum General College Education requirements as established by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

The present facilities, equipment, applicable areas, faculty and administrative personnel of the Philippine Naval Training Command shall be absorbed by the PNA. The PNA shall establish a strong working relationship for specific academic as well as training facilities with the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy and other colleges, universities and institutions. Nothing prevents the PNA from establishing arrangements with colleges and universities to augment capabilities to train midshipmen.

Upon graduation from PNA the midshipmen shall be commissioned regular officers of the AFP. The baccalaureate degrees earned at the PNA prepare the graduates to pass certain government licensure examinations for mariners. And since the degrees acquired from PNA are CHED accredited, the graduates

will be able to use their academic and leadership training not only as Navy Officers but also as licensed mariners when they retire from the service after fulfilling the eight (8) year mandatory service to the Philippine Navy.

All in all the provisions of this bill will be highly beneficial to the AFP and to the country in general. Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
Second OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)
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5 SEP -8 P 3:32 ✓

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S.B. No. 2113

Introduced by Senator RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NAVAL ACADEMY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of State Policy.* – It is hereby declared that the State shall promote a competent and professional military service in the country to effectively carry out its mandate of assuring the sovereign's defensive integrity and security. By providing for specialized training and educational programs for the specific branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the improvement and enhancement of the military service shall be attained.

SEC. 2. *Applicability.* – The provisions of this Act shall apply to the AFP in so far as to the establishment of the Philippine Naval Academy; admission of cadets to the Academy; organization and administration of the Academy; appointment to the regular force as officers in the AFP from those who successfully complete the academic and officer training in the Academy; the composition of the Corps of Midshipmen; the composition of the Academic Board and Faculty members.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this act, the following terms are hereby defined, to wit:

- a. *Active Commission Service* – a period of the active service rendered by an individual as commissioned officer;
- b. *Commission* – a status conferred to an individual by the President of the Republic of the Philippines to serve as regular officer in the AFP;
- c. *Midshipman* – a cadet in the Philippine Naval Academy who is pursuing a baccalaureate degree and being trained as an officer of the AFP and specializing in the maritime fields;

- d. *Regular Officer* - a commissioned officer in the regular forces of the AFP appointed as such by the President of the Republic of the Philippines;

SEC. 4. *Philippine Naval Academy.* - There shall be established in the Philippine Navy, an educational institution to be known as the Philippine Naval Academy (PNA), hereinafter referred to as the Academy, for the instruction and preparation for military service of Philippine Naval Cadets, to be known as Midshipmen. This instruction is a 2-year program, basing from the minimum academic entry requirements into the Academy, that is the General College Education requirements as established by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Certain applicable facilities of the Philippine Naval Training Command shall be absorbed by the PNA including all equipment, facilities, school ground and applicable members of the faculty and administrative personnel pursuant to Section 17 herein.

SEC. 5. *Corps of Midshipmen of the Philippine Navy.* - The student body of the Academy shall be known as the Corps of Midshipmen of the Philippine Navy (CMVN). The processing of applicants for midshipmen begins from the filling up and submission of application forms to the Office of Midshipmen Admission. The Philippine Navy shall announce the conduct of a national competitive examination for qualified applicants. Successful examinees will be notified by telegram and their names published in a newspaper of general circulation. They will then undergo a thorough medical, dental, and neuro-psychiatric examination. The medical examination as well as the transportation fare from the applicants' address to the government hospital conducting the check-up may be free of charge.

SEC. 6. *Eligibility for Admission.* - To be eligible for admission, a candidate must:

- a. Be single, but has never been married;
- b. Be a natural born citizen of the Philippines;
- c. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age, but not more than twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of his/her admission;
- d. Have at least completed the necessary General College Education requirements as established by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) obtained from any government recognized colleges or universities or accredited educational institutions leading to a four-year baccalaureate degree;
- e. Have passed and completed basic ROTC training;
- f. Pass the competitive national examination given for the purpose;
- g. Must pass the physical examination and psychological tests to be given by competent authorities of the Philippine Navy;

- h. Be willing to conform to and abide by all laws of the country and the rules and regulations of the AFP;

The Academy shall provide for educational and physical facilities for the recruitment and training of women as members of the midshipmen.

Women shall be admitted and shall comprise not less than five percent (5%) of the strength of the corps of midshipmen.

If it is to be determined that, upon the admission of a new class to the Academy, the number of midshipmen at the Academy will be below the authorized number, the Chief of Staff may nominate alternates, as may be recommended and found qualified by the Faculty as are necessary to meet the needs of the Philippine Navy. The authorized strength of the Corps of Midshipmen shall not be more than three hundred (300) all at one time.

SEC. 7. Academic Courses. - Academic courses, which are major requirements for the conferral of baccalaureate degrees, shall be taught to the Midshipmen in the Academy. The Academy shall be manned and equipped with the necessary faculty, expertise, equipment and facilities to conform to the requirements of the CHED to be able to award baccalaureate degrees within two (2) years of continuing academic instructions and officer training. There will be no academic breaks except on legal and national holidays. Nothing shall prevent the Academy from inviting professors and other experts in the maritime and other technical fields from existing national agencies, or having agreements with school, colleges, and universities to augment its capabilities, or the hiring of civilian professors to man professional chairs. All these personnel shall be subject to AFP and Academy rules and regulations whichever may be applicable.

The Superintendent of the Academy shall recommend to the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, individuals who will be designated or commissioned as members of the Corps of Professors. Applicable laws governing appointment and commissionship in the Corps of Professors shall apply.

SEC. 8. Organization of the Corps of Midshipmen. - The Corps of Midshipmen of the Philippine Navy (CMVN) shall be organized along the lines of the Navy organizations. The CMVN shall have a First Captain appointed by the Superintendent of the Academy from among the most qualified Midshipmen. The CMVN shall have an Honor Code of Conduct, which shall be used to govern the behavior of each and every individual of the CMVN in addition to the established AFP rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. Pay and Allowances. - The pay and allowances of the midshipmen shall be fixed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, as recommended by the Secretary of National Defense.

SEC. 10. Undertaking. - Each midshipman shall sign an agreement that, unless sooner separated by duly authorized authorities, he or she shall:

1. Complete the course of instruction at the Academy;

2. Accept an appointment and serve as a commissioned officer of the Philippine Navy, AFP for at least eight (8) years immediately after graduation from the Academy.

Entry into the Academy shall be on the 1st week of May every year. Graduation will also be on the 1st week of May every year.

SEC. 11. *Midshipmen Retirement.* - Any midshipman, who shall, after entrance to the Academy and before completion of prescribed courses of training, be found physically or mentally unfit for military assignment by reason of injury or disease incidental to the service, shall be retired with the rank of Ensign of the Philippine Navy.

SEC. 12. *Commission.* - Upon satisfactory completion of the course of instruction at the Academy, the midshipman shall be commissioned Ensigns in the regular force of the AFP with the relative rank in the order of final general standing as determined by the Academic Board of the Academy and approved by the Chief of Staff of the AFP.

SEC. 13. *Administration.* - The Academy as herein established shall be organized and administered by the Flag Officer in Command, Philippine Navy under the general supervision and control of the Chief of Staff of the AFP.

SEC. 14. *Academic Board.* - The Academic Board of the Academy shall be composed of the Superintendent, the Dean of the Corps of Professors, the Commandant of Midshipmen and the Heads of the Department.

The Superintendent and the Commandant of Midshipmen of the Academy shall be detailed to those positions by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, from the current officers of the Philippine Navy.

The Dean of the Corps of Professors shall be appointed from the permanent professors who have served as Heads of Departments of instructions at the Academy.

The Academic Board shall have the power to confer Baccalaureate degrees to all midshipmen, upon the satisfactory completion of the approved course of studies, under such rules and regulations as the Chief of Staff of the AFP may prescribe.

Cadets/Student from other Philippine military educational institutions may be admitted to the Academy provided that these cadets/students must have completed the necessary General College Education requirements of CHED as specified in Section 4 and Section 6, hereof. These cadets/students, however, will no longer take the competitive examinations nationwide, except that they must pass the physical and psychological examinations provided for. Upon entry into the Academy, these cadet/students shall be appointed as midshipmen. Commissionship in the AFP for these cadets/students shall be subject to the requirements for commissionship as applicable in their previous military institutions.

SEC. 15. *Baccalaureate Degree.* - Baccalaureate degrees to be conferred to those who successfully complete their courses in the Academy shall be the

following: (1) *Bachelor of Science in Marine and Naval Systems* and (2) *Bachelor of Science in Naval Electronics*.

The degrees mentioned in the previous paragraph are the initial degrees. Other degrees that may be needed in the future will be conferred, provided that the Academic Board shall determine these degrees in consonance with the need of the country and the AFP as well. The Academy will develop these courses and the necessary expertise as the need arises.

SEC. 16. Prohibition Against Hazing. – Subject to the approval of the Secretary of National Defense, the Superintendent of the Academy shall issue rules and regulations preventing hazing, and prescribe dismissal, suspension and other adequate punishment for violation thereof.

For purposes of this Act, the term "*hazing*" shall mean any unauthorized assumption of authority by a midshipman whereby another midshipman suffers or is exposed to any form of injury, indignity, humiliation, hardship or oppression or deprivation or abridgment of the basic rights of the midshipman.

If a midshipman is charged with violating any rules or regulations issued pursuant to this Section, a request in writing for a trial by a general court martial may be submitted, without prejudice to the filing of a separate criminal case against the midshipman. If the midshipman is found guilty of the charge, the penalty shall be dismissal from the Academy.

A midshipman dismissed from the Academy for hazing shall not be reappointed as a midshipman and shall be ineligible for appointment as a commissioned officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SEC. 17. Transfer of Assets and Liabilities. – All applicable assets and liabilities, including the members of faculty and personnel, records and equipment, of the Philippine Naval Training Command under the Philippine Navy are hereby transferred to and integrated with the Philippine Naval Academy. Similar assets necessary for training now existing elsewhere in the AFP shall be immediately transferred to the Academy.

SEC. 18. Implementing Rules and Regulation. – The Secretary of National Defense shall prescribe the implementing rules and regulation necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 19. Budget. – The initial appropriations necessary for the establishment of the Academy shall be charge to the appropriations of the Department of National Defense. Improvements necessary for the operation and maintenance of the Academy shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 20. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 21. Separability Clause. – The provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be separable, and in the event one or more of such provisions are

held unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be effected thereby.

SEC. 22. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,