

The PATC

Training Grounds for AFP Soldiers

By Captain ENRIQUE HR. ABILA

ON the 15th of this month, the Philippine Army Training Command will celebrate the second anniversary of its foundation. Nestled within the military reservation of historic Ft. Wm. McKinley, Rizal, the PATC is the answer to the increasing need of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for more fighting soldiers, more technically qualified army personnel, and an efficient corps of reserves.

Seven years ago, the advent of Philippine independence brought with it, along with the blessings of democracy, the manifold problems of a newly born Republic. One of these is the urgent need of strengthening our Armed Forces to insure national security both from within and from without.

An army, to be strong in war and in peace, must have a trained reserve sufficient for replacement and emergency purposes. It was for this purpose that the President of the Philippines, on 26 August 1946, directed the activation of the 1st Provisional Infantry Regiment in Camp Murphy, Quezon City. This was the beginning of the present-day Philippine Army Training Command. Its first commanding officer was Brig

Gen Claro B. Lizardo, now retired.

Since then, this Unit has gone through several deactivations and activations, designations and redesignations. But through all these stages of metamorphosis, the present-day Philippine Army Training Command has generally retained its original mission—the building up of the nation's trained reserves, the bulwark of our citizen army.

These trained reserves come from the yearly groups of 20-year-old draftees, from ROTC cadets, from replacements for the various AFP units in the field, and from the ranks of reserve officers.

The objectives of the Military Training Command as contained in training directives were to produce well-trained, hard-hitting fighting teams, capable of operating as independent, reinforced

battalions or regiments. To carry out these objectives effectively, M T C moved out to Floridablanca, Pampanga, during the second half of July 1947. At that time, MTC was concentrating on the training of the 20-year-old draftees, and on the summer training of ROTC cadets.

When Executive Order 308 divided the Armed Forces into five major commands.



Brig. Gen. RAMON ENRIQUEZ
Commanding General, PATC

— the PGF, PAF, PNP, PSC and PC — the Military Training Command was deactivated on 31 December 1947. Its personnel, records, and equipment were absorbed by the Philippine Ground Force which was placed under the command of Brig Gen Claro B Lizardo. However, the objectives of MTC continued to be the missions of the Philippine Ground Force.

The Army Ground Forces School at Camp Alabang, Rizal, was transferred to Floridablanca, Pampanga, and subsequently became a subordinate unit of PGF. On August 1949, PGF moved to Ft Wm McKinley until it was deactivated in 1950.

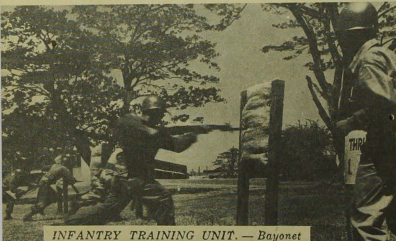
*In its place, Replacement and Training Center was activated with station at Ft Wm McKinley, Rizal. The Infantry Training Group, which was one of the training units under PGF, became the nucleus of RTC.

With the abolition of the Philippine

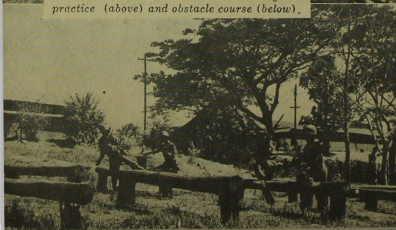
Ground Force, Gen Lizardo was designated Commanding General of II MA. Col Roman Ibañez took command of the newly activated RTC on 1 Jan 1951, only to be relieved by Col Ramon Enriquez a month later. The Replacement Training Center changed hands for the third time in six months when Gen Lizardo came back from II MA on June 1, 1951.

With the increase in strength of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 19-51, GHQ decided to train not only reserve units, but also to provide retraining for field units such as BCTs and PC companies, and the training of units contemplated to be activated in the near future.

These training plans required a training center with adequate facilities and a flexible organization consisting of highly qualified personnel from all branches of the service. To achieve these ends, the Armed Forces of the



INFANTRY TRAINING UNIT. — Bayonet practice (above) and obstacle course (below).



ARTILLERY TRAINING. — Trainees fire big gun with use of overhanging camouflage.



Philippines Training Center was activated on 1 July, 1951.

The objectives of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Training Center were broader than those of the former Military Training Command. They included the retraining of PC companies, the training of newly activated units, and the training of individual replacements for PA units.

Finally, on November 15, 1951, the AFPTC was redesignated the Philippine Army Training Command as it is known now with Brig Gen Claro B. Lizardo as its commanding general.

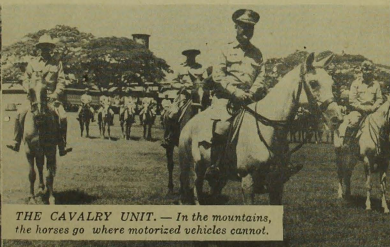
Today the Philippine Army Training Command is one of the major units of AFP. It is composed of five major subordinate units: (1) Station Complement commanded by Lt Col Louis Marohombsar; (2) Philippine Army School Center, commanded by Col Jacinto Gavino; (3) Manila ROTC Units

with Col Mariano Tanwangco as superintendent; (4) Replacement Training Center, commanded by Lt. Col. Jacinto Leoncio; and (5) 1st Cavalry Squadron, commanded by Lt Col Jacobo Zobel.

The PATC is presently charged with the following objectives: (1) to train AFP individual replacements, (2) to train the annual quota for the 10-months-cadre trainees, (3) to train ROTC students in greater Manila and supervise their annual summer training, (4) to retrain PA units so designated, (5) to train newly-activated units and any other units so designated by GHQ, and (6) to operate such schools for the training of officers and enlisted men as may be directed by GHQ.

Station Complement

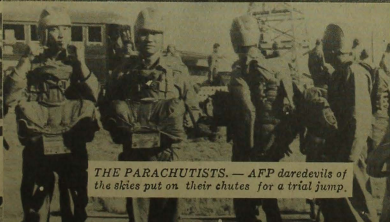
The Station Complement is made up of the different post detachments inside Ft. Wm. McKinley. The main mis-



THE CAVALRY UNIT. — In the mountains, the horses go where motorized vehicles cannot.



DOGS HAVE IT TOO. — A member of the AFP K-9 corps is put through routine by its trainer.



THE PARACHUTISTS. — AFP daredevils of the skies put on their chutes for a trial jump.

sion of this unit is to furnish billets and logistical support to all troops and units stationed in Ft. McKinley and to operate and maintain all post facilities.

Philippine Army School Center

The PASC is presently running nine service schools. These are the Command and General Staff School (see October, 1953 issue of the *Journal*), the Ground Combat School, the Quartermaster Service School, the Finance Service School, Signal School Branch, Engineer Service School, Ordnance School, Adjutant General School and the Intelligence School. These schools aim to achieve the production of more highly trained army technicians and the development of small unit leadership compatible with all the known situations in a modern war.

Manila ROTC Units

The immediate objective of ROTC training is to produce commissioned and non-commissioned reserve officers to man the reserve units. ROTC training is designed to qualify students for immediate leadership in times of emergency.

Replacement Training Center

The main mission of the RTC is to train the 20-year-old draftees called for cadre service as provided for in the National Defense Act. In addition, however, are (1) scout ranger training course patterned after the famous scout rangers of the US Army, (2) the training of scout dogs and dog handlers designed to produce sentry

dogs, scout dogs and silent trackers, under any weather and terrain conditions; (3) training and preparation of PEFTOK replacements for shipment to Korea.

The following units are operating under the RTC: Infantry Training Unit, Artillery Training Unit, Scout Ranger Training Unit, Scout Dog Training Unit, Signal Training Unit, Engineer Training Unit, and Medical Training Unit.

1st Cavalry Squadron

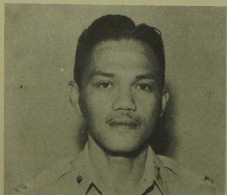
The 1st Cavalry Squadron was activated on April 15, 1952. Its missions are: to provide training in equitation for officers and PMA cadets, (2) to be employed in combat as a tactical unit or as a pack unit, (3) to participate in military formations, ceremonies and escorts, and (4) to perform other purely military duties normally performed by cavalry units.

PEFTOK Replacement Training

One of the special missions of the PATC is to conduct and supervise the intensive training of the BCT intended to replace the PEFTOK unit in Korea, and to extend to it all training facilities, equipment and materials that will enable it to carry on its training program to a successful completion. The feats of arms and the deeds of valor of the 20th BCT, the 19th under the famous commander Colonel Ramon Aguirre, and now the 14th BCT are glaring testimonies of the efficiency of training conducted by the PATC.

Today, within the reservation of Ft Wm McKinley, the Philippine Army Training Command carries out its training grind day in and day out, endlessly and unflinching. In this task it is helping to strengthen the fabric of our national defense.

Whether the feat of arms and stoutness of heart of our fighting men are bared on the battlefields of Korea, in the plains and mountains fastnesses of Luzon, or on the seas and jungles of Sulu and Mindanao, the Philippine Army Training Command can proudly and justly claim a portion of the glory that has made the Filipino soldier in the words of Winston Churchill "a fighter who has no equal in the world."



Colonel TIRSO FAJARDO
Vice Commander, PATC