

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session
House Bill No. 703



Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit or CAFGU was activated pursuant to Executive Order 264 dated July 1987 which was later complemented by Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as "Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act". Since its inception, the CAFGU has played a very vital role in the Government's counter-insurgency campaign strategy. They form part of the integrated territorial defense system which prevents the re-entry of insurgents in previously contested barangay units.


It is to be understood that the CAFGU is definitely not a paramilitary force but is a reserve unit organized within a locality. It consists of a cadre of officers and men in the active force and qualified volunteer reservists residing in the locality.

Under Section 64 of Republic Act No. 7077, a reservist performing auxiliary service shall not receive payment but shall be entitled to receive allowances and burial benefits as provided by law. In recognition of their contribution, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has allotted some other forms of support to ensure the CAFGU members' well-being as well as that of their dependents.

Be that as it may, the meager subsistence allowance that a CAFGU member receives is really not proportional to the risk and hazards they face while in active combat duty. Just like the regular soldiers and policemen, CAFGU members have proven that they can also perform the supreme sacrifice of offering one's own life for the country. Admittedly, there is a glaring disparity in terms of emoluments and benefits received by the regular soldiers and law enforcers compared to the CAFGU members performing the same duty.

To somehow remedy this matter, the proposed measure aims to grant Combat Duty Allowance and Combat Incentive Allowance to CAFGU members in active combat duty. Not only would this proposal raise the morale of these men, but would somehow alleviate their financial burden as well. More importantly, this a well-deserved incentive for the courage, loyalty and bravery of these non-military men and women in the service of their country.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District of Muntinlupa

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AN ACT
GRANTING COMBAT DUTY ALLOWANCE AND COMBAT INCENTIVE
ALLOWANCE TO CITIZEN ARMED FORCES GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT (CAFGU)
ACTIVE AUXILIARIES (CAAs) OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
(AFP) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “CAFGU Combat Duty and Combat Incentive Allowance Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. *Statement of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to develop a citizen armed force capable of supporting the Armed Forces of the Philippines securing the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory. Towards this end, it shall provide the training and other necessary resources, including emoluments, to members of this armed force.

Sec. 3. *Combat Duty Allowance.* - A Combat Duty Allowance is hereby granted to Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) Active Auxiliaries (CAAs) as created and defined under Section 4 of Executive Order No. 264, Series of 1987, who are performing combat duties or activities which shall be defined in regulations to be issued by the Secretary of National Defense. The rate of the Combat Duty Allowance of the members of the CAFGU is hereby fixed at Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000. 00) per month.

Sec. 4. *Combat Incentive Allowance.* - CAAs who figure directly in actual combat against members of various insurgent, terrorist and lawless elements, shall be entitled to an additional Combat Incentive Allowance of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) per day, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) the operation must be for a specific combat mission that is duly covered by an Operations Order (OPORD) or Fragmentary Order (FRAG-O) from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP);
- (b) the personnel involved in combat must be in the published task organization of the AFP OPORD/FRAG-O; and
- (c) the total additional Combat Incentive Allowance for each individual shall not exceed Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) per month.

The Combat Incentive Allowance shall be over and above the Combat Duty Allowance of P3,000.00 for qualified CAAs.

Sec. 5. *Adjustments in the Combat Duty Allowance and Combat Incentive Allowance of CAAs.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, any adjustment made on the Combat Duty Pay and Combat Incentive Pay of members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall also apply to the Combat Duty Allowance and Combat Incentive Allowance of CAAs.

Sec. 6. *Funding Requirement.* – The initial funding requirement necessary to implement this Act shall be drawn from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund. Succeeding funding for this purpose shall be included in the specific budgets of the AFP in the General Appropriations Act, provided that the actual roster of CAAs of the AFP is submitted to the Department of Budget and Management. The validated list shall be the basis for allocating funds for the purpose in the succeeding years.

Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall continue to be in force and effect.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All executive orders, rules and regulations and other parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,