

SECRET



**Armed Forces of the Philippines
Standing Rules of Engagement
(AFPSROE)**

SECRET



DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

FILE NR: 2342

FN: SROE/DF for CSAFP's approval
B(272)

SUBJECT: AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

TO: CSAFP
THRU: VCSAFP

FROM: TDCS

DATE NOV 29 2005 Comment Nr _____
COL FERRER/RBA/6397

J3 24 Sep 05
TJAG 28 Sep 05
C, RMO 30 Sep 05
J5 15 Nov 05

SUMMARY

1. References:

- Specific ROEs of the AFP and Major Services.
- Series of mini-workshops and conferences of the Technical Working Group organized to craft the AFP SROE.
- Final document review conducted by OTJAG.

2. OJ3 proposes the publication of the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement (SROE) to provide implementation guidance to AFP units on the application of force for mission accomplishment and the exercise of the inherent right and obligation of self-defense. It shall also establish the fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions to be taken by AFP commanders in the event of attack, both internal and external, against the Philippines and during all military operations, contingencies, terrorist attacks, or prolonged conflict. **(Inclosure 6)**

3. In order to come up with the document, a series of mini-workshops and conferences was conducted by a Technical Working Group (TWG) from September 2004 to August 2005. The TWG organized for said purpose conducted a long process of consultation, research, review and validation to craft the main document and refine existing specific ROEs.

4. The TWG is composed of representatives from the J-staff, Major Services (3's, 5's and JAGs) and OTJAG. Subject matter experts were also invited to provide insights on ROE formulation. Consultations with respective chiefs of office were made by the said representatives and inputs were discussed thoroughly prior to inclusion in the document.

5. After series of readings, discussions and exchange of comments, the Major Services submitted final comments/recommendations through formal letters and amplified by their representatives during the final conference on 10 August 2005. The Army and Air Force immediately recommended for the publication of the AFP SROE while the Navy, after their final comments were adequately addressed, eventually moved for the documents promulgation. **(Inclosure 1)**

6. Subsequently, a final review was made by OTJAG to look into legal infirmities and align the document with universally accepted principles including the fundamental principles establishing the sovereign right of the Republic of the Philippines, respect for human life, and adherence to international law.

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7. Since it is provided for in the document that the AFP commanders shall have the responsibility of providing their subordinate commanders and units with copies of the AFP SROE, attached is the Distribution List. *(Inclosure 2)*

8. The reproduction cost of one thousand copies (1,000) of the document amounts to One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred pesos (P135,400.00). *(Inclosure 3)*

RECOMMENDATION

9. Signature on the letter of endorsement for SND's approval of the publication of the AFP SROE and on the proposed Letter of Promulgation. *(Inclosures 4 & 5)*

10. Release of P135,400.00 to support the reproduction cost of said documents chargeable against Functional Program Activities for Operations.

S. B. Bagas
BAGASIN

29 Nov 05

Comm

Ch
VCSATP

30 Nov '05
DATE

VCSATP
TO: TDCS

1. Approved / ~~Disapproved~~
2. _____

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GENEROSO S SENG
GENERAL AFP

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of National Defense
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

01 DEC 2005

The Honorable
Secretary AVELINO J CRUZ JR
Department of National Defense
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Dear **Secretary Cruz:**

This pertains to the attached final draft of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Standing Rules of Engagement (SROE) crafted by a Technical Working Group (TWG) organized by the AFP for said purpose.

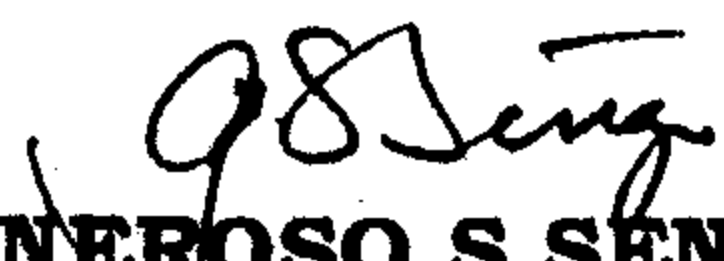
The AFP SROE will provide implementation guidance to AFP units on the application of force for mission accomplishment and the exercise of the inherent right and obligation of self-defense. It shall also establish the fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions to be taken by AFP commanders in the event of attack, both internal and external, against the Philippines and during all military operations, contingencies, terrorist attacks, or prolonged conflict.

The TWG conducted a long process of consultation, research, review and validation to craft the main document and refine existing specific ROE from September 2004 to August 2005. Subject matter experts were also invited to provide insights on ROE formulation.

Subsequently, a final review was made by the Office of The Judge Advocate General, AFP to look into legal infirmities and align the document with universally accepted principles including the fundamental principles establishing the sovereign right of the Republic of the Philippines, respect for human life, and adherence to international law.

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully recommend the approval of the publication of the AFP SROE.

Very truly yours,


GENEROSO S SENG
General AFP

Office of the Chief of Staff, AFP
OUTGOING DOCUMENT



CSAFP05GSS-G001120

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

01 December 2005

SUBJECT: **Letter of Promulgation**

TO: **All Concerned**

1. The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, J3, AFP spearheaded the formulation of the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement (AFP SROE) through a Technical Working Group composed of representatives from the J-Staff, Major Services, and the Office of The Judge Advocate General, AFP.

2. Prior to the effort of coming up with the AFP SROE, the AFP had different sets of specific Rules of Engagement (ROEs) for different purposes and were usually crafted as the need arose. Some were as old as the functions that they were intended for, and some were very specific that they could not be applied in even similar operations but of different situations.

3. The AFP SROE provides implementation guidance to AFP units on the application of force for mission accomplishment and the exercise of the inherent right and obligation of self-defense. It also establishes the fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions to be taken by AFP commanders in the event of attack, both internal and external, against the Philippines and during all military operations, contingencies, terrorist attacks, or prolonged conflict.

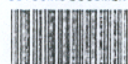
4. AFP Commanders at every echelon are responsible for establishing ROE for mission accomplishment that comply with ROE of senior commanders and this AFP SROE, and provide subordinate units copies of the AFP SROE, specific ROEs and other ROEs for implementation. They shall ensure that its provisions are understood and implemented.

5. The AFP SROE shall be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. Recommendations for its improvement are therefore, encouraged.

6. In view of the foregoing, the AFP SROE is hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned effective this date.


GENEROSO S SENG
General AFP

Office of the Chief of Staff, AFP
OUTGOING DOCUMENT



CSAFP'05GSS-G001121

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

01 December 2005

SUBJECT: AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

TO: See Distribution

1. General

a. The constitutionally mandated mission of the AFP is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory. In the performance of this mission, which necessitates the use of force and self-defense, a set of rules of engagement has to be established.

b. Rules of Engagement (ROE) are inherent guidelines issued to combatant forces all over the world. They are based on universally accepted principles and international law. The sovereign right of the Republic of the Philippines, respect for human life, and adherence to international law are the fundamental principles that characterize this ROE. This ROE shall be distinctly defined as the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement (SROE).

2. Purpose:

a. This document promulgates the Standing Rules of Engagement for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

b. The purpose of this document is to provide implementation guidance on the application of force for mission accomplishment and the exercise of the inherent right and obligation of self-defense. The AFP SROE differentiates between the use of force for self-defense and for mission accomplishment.

c. Consequently, it will provide a common basis for training and planning capabilities. Thus, this document is also authorized for distribution to commanders at all levels and is to be used as fundamental guidance for training and directing their forces.

d. Further, this document provides the guidelines to be used in peacetime operations other than war, during armed conflict in the

absence of superseding guidance, and during transition from conflict to negotiation to peacetime.

e. In the absence of a superseding guidance, this SROE establishes the fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions to be taken by AFP commanders in the event of attack, both internal and external, against the Philippines and during all military operations, contingencies, terrorist attacks, or prolonged conflicts.

3. Scope and Applicability

a. This SROE shall apply to all units, elements, and personnel of the AFP.

b. This SROE shall be valid for implementation during attacks against the Republic of the Philippines or in any part thereof, the AFP and its units in Internal Security Operations (ISO), Territorial Defense Operations (TDO), and other military and contingency operations.

c. When the AFP or its units are part of Multinational Forces and UN forces or in combined and joint operations, the concerned AFP units shall conform to the agreed ROE.

d. This AFP SROE shall not be applicable to multilateral or bilateral training exercises.

e. In the absence of a combined or agreed ROE in the conduct of combined, joint, multilateral and bilateral operations, AFP personnel shall adhere to the AFP SROE.

4. Intent:

a. Ensure the correct use of force, consistent with mission accomplishment.

b. Implement the right of self-defense which is applicable to all echelons of command, within and beyond Philippine territory.

5. Responsibilities:

a. The National Command Authority (NCA) approves the SROE for the AFP. The Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (J-3) is responsible for the formulation, review and update of this SROE.

b. Commanders may formulate specific ROE as necessary, to reflect changing political and military policies, and threats in the accomplishment of specific missions. The formulated specific ROE must be in line with the AFPSROE and shall be submitted to CSAFP (Attn: J3) for information.

c. When a Commander formulates a specific ROE, which would be in conflict with any provision of this SROE, this shall be submitted to the Chief of Staff, AFP for NCA approval.

d. Commanders at every echelon are responsible for establishing ROE for mission accomplishment that comply with ROE of senior commanders and this AFP SROE.

e. The ROE supplemental measures apply only to the use of force for mission accomplishment and do not limit a commander's use of force in self-defense. There are two types of supplemental measures, those that authorize certain actions and those that place limits on the use of force for mission accomplishment.

f. Commanders shall provide subordinate units the AFP SROE, specific ROEs and other ROEs for implementation.

6. Policy:

a. Commanders have the inherent authority and obligation to use necessary means available and to take appropriate actions in self-defense of their units and other AFP forces in the vicinity.

b. This SROE does not convey authority to conduct missions.

c. AFP forces operating with multinational forces (MNF):

1) AFP units assigned to the operational control (OPCON) of a multinational force will follow the ROE of the multinational force for mission accomplishment as authorized by the NCA. AFP units always retain the right to use necessary and proportional force for unit and individual self-defense in response to a hostile act or a hostile intent.

2) When AFP units participate in MNF operations reasonable efforts will be made to develop and implement a common ROE. If such ROE cannot be established, AFP units will be guided by the AFPSROE. However, to avoid misunderstanding, the multinational forces will be informed prior to AFP participation in the operation that AFP units intend to operate under the AFPSROE and to exercise unit and individual self-defense in response to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent.

d. AFP units will comply with the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) during military operations, no matter how the conflict may be characterized under international law, and will comply with its principles and spirit during all other operations.

e. The AFP shall secure, protect and maintain the integrity of the national territory comprised of the Philippine archipelago, with all the

islands and waters embraced therein, and all other territories over which the Philippines has sovereignty or jurisdiction, consisting of its terrestrial, fluvial, and aerial domains, including its territorial sea, the seabed, the subsoil, the insular shelves, and other submarine areas.

f. The Philippines exercises jurisdiction over its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS).

g. Freedom of Navigation and the right of innocent passage in International waters and sea lanes of communication should be guaranteed and maintained.

h. AFP Elements shall endeavor to establish the identity and intention of all aircraft and watercraft within the Philippine air space, surface and sub-surface and EEZ before the application of appropriate rules of engagement.

7. Definition of Concepts and Terms: See Annex A

8. General Rules for the Correct Use of Force towards Mission Accomplishment:

a. Commanders must consider the assigned mission, the current situation, higher commanders' intent and all other available guidance in determining the level of force required for mission accomplishment.

b. The use of force to accomplish authorized missions should be reasonable in intensity, duration and magnitude.

c. When a military operation is approved, it will be conducted to ensure that incidental injury to civilians and collateral damage to non-military objects are minimized.

d. Commanders must be aware of, and sensitive to, the points stated in the definition of strategic implications of tactical operations. In particular, military operations shall be conducted in a manner that shall entail:

1) The least possible impact of such operations on the larger community of non-combatants, especially on their livelihood and normal conduct of everyday life;

2) Minimum evacuation from homes and/or areas of food production;

3) Close coordination with pertinent agencies of Government within his AOR when socio-economic dislocations are expected or become imminent as a result of such operations;

4) Public safety, in support to law enforcement agencies, for areas prone to conflict spillover or collateral acts of terrorism;

5) Due consideration on the strategic, operational and tactical implications to peace processes and/or negotiations; and

6) Overall adherence to national policies and public interest.

e. Positive Identification (PID) of targets is required prior to engagement. PID is a reasonable certainty that the object of attack is verified and confirmed as a legitimate military target in accordance with this SROE.

f. Cultural, religious, and historical landmarks, civilian population centers, public utilities and other non-military structures, shall be protected and shall not be attacked except when they are being used for military purposes.

g. The engagement of any target that meets the definition of a high collateral damage requires NCA approval. This does not apply to immediate target engagement under the inherent right of self-defense.

h. Commanders of UC's and major component commanders may conduct offensive operations against the following high collateral damage time-sensitive situations/targets:

1) Terrorism.

2) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) munitions depot such as artillery shells, rockets, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

3) Any Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs).

i. Authority to approve strikes on terrorist groups is delegated to the Unified Command Commanders and may be re-delegated to tasks force commanders.

j. Commanders will instruct their personnel on the nature of their mission to include proper actuations and decorum. This stresses the importance of proper conduct and regard for the local population and the need to respect private property and public facilities and sensitivity to local/ethnic cultures.

k. Once a force is declared hostile by appropriate authority, AFP units need not observe a hostile act or a demonstration of hostile intent before engaging that force.

1. The responsibility for exercising the right and obligation of national self-defense and as necessary declaring a force hostile is a matter of utmost importance.

m. All available intelligence information, the status of international relationships, the requirements of international law, the appreciation of the political situation, and the strategic implications of tactical decisions for the Philippine government, must be carefully weighed.

9. General Rules for Self-Defense:

a. Authority to Exercise Self-Defense.

1) Nothing in these rules are intended to infringe upon AFP personnel's right of self defense. These rules are intended to prevent indiscriminate use of force or other violations of law or regulation.

2) National Self-Defense. The act of defending the national territory, its forces and its people against a hostile act or a hostile intent is an indispensable right and obligation of every citizen.

3) Collective Self-Defense. A Multi National Force as a whole has the obligation to defend any of its members from any hostile act or hostile intent.

4) Unit Self-Defense. A unit commander has the authority and obligation to use all necessary means available and to take all appropriate actions to defend the unit, including elements and personnel, or other AFP forces in the vicinity, against a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent. In defending against a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent, unit commanders will use only that degree of force necessary to decisively counter the hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent and to ensure the continued protection of AFP forces.

5) Individual Self-Defense. Commanders have the obligation to ensure that individuals within their respective units are trained on and understand when and how to use force in self-defense.

b. Action in Self-Defense.

1) Means of Self-Defense. All necessary means available and all appropriate actions may be used in self-defense. The following guidelines apply for individual and unit self-defense:

a) Attempt to De-escalate the Situation. When time and circumstances permit, the hostile force should be warned and given the opportunity to withdraw or cease the threatening actions.

b) Use Proportional Force which may include non-lethal weapons to control the situation. When the use of force in self-

defense is necessary, the nature, duration, and scope of the engagement should not exceed that which is required to decisively counter the hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent and to ensure the continued protection of AFP forces or other protected personnel or property.

c) **Attack to Disable or Destroy.** An attack to disable or destroy a hostile force is authorized when such action is the only prudent means by which a hostile act or demonstration of hostile intent can be prevented or terminated. When such conditions exist, engagement is authorized only while the hostile force continues to commit hostile acts or exhibit hostile intent.

2) **Pursuit of Hostile Forces.** Self-defense includes the authority to pursue and engage hostile forces that continue to commit hostile acts or exhibit hostile intent.

c. **Defending RP Nationals, Property, and Designated Foreign nationals:**

1) **Within a Foreign Nation's Territory or Territorial Airspace.** The foreign nation has the principal responsibility for defending RP nationals and property within these areas.

2) **In international Airspace.** Protecting civilian aircraft in international airspace is principally the responsibility of the nation of registry.

d. **Piracy.** AFP ships and aircrafts have an obligation to repress piracy on local waters directed against any vessel or aircraft, including foreign flagged, and are authorized to employ all means necessary to repress piratical acts. When AFP ships and aircraft repress an act of piracy, the right and obligation of self-defense extends to persons, vessels, or aircraft assisted. If a pirate vessel fleeing from pursuit proceeds into the territorial sea, archipelagic waters, or superjacent airspace of another country, every effort should be made to obtain the consent of the coastal state prior to continuation of the pursuit.

e. **Operations Within or in Vicinity of Hostile Fire or Combat Zones Not Involving the Republic of the Philippines.**

1) AFP forces (not a part of Multi-national forces) should not enter, or remain in, a zone in which hostilities (not involving RP) are imminent or occurring between foreign forces unless directed by proper authority.

2) If a force commits a hostile act or exhibits hostile intent against RP forces in a hostile fire or combat zone, the commander is obligated to act in unit self-defense in accordance with the AFPSROE guidelines.

f. Right of Assistance Entry.

1) PN sea vessels or, under certain circumstances, PAF aircraft that will enter a foreign territorial sea and corresponding airspace in order to render emergency assistance to those in danger or distress from perils of the sea shall seek permission from the coastal or island state concerned.

2) Right of Assistance Entry extends only to rescue operations where the location of those in danger is reasonably well known. It does not extend to entering the territorial sea, archipelagic waters, or territorial airspace with the purpose of conducting a search.

3) For ships and aircraft rendering assistance on scene, the right and obligation of self-defense extends to and includes persons, vessels, or aircraft being assisted. The right of self-defense in such circumstances does not include interference with legitimate law enforcement actions of a coastal state. However, once received on board by the assisting ship or aircraft, persons assisted will not be surrendered to foreign authority unless directed by the NCA.

10. Rescission. This AFP SROE rescinds all other publications in conflict hereof.

11. Effectivity. This AFP SROE shall take effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL SENG:

ORIGINAL SIGNED
SAMUEL B BAGASIN
Lieutenant General AFP
The Deputy Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

CESAR L CARRANZA
Commodore AFP
The Adjutant General

Annexes:

- A - Definition of Concepts and Terms
- B - Rules for Ground Operations
- C - Rules for Naval Operations
- D - Rules for Air Operations

- E - Rules for Crisis Situation and Hostage Rescue Operations
- F - Rules for Law Enforcement Operations
- G - ROE Card: General Rules of Engagement

DISTRIBUTION:

All Major Service Commanders
All Unified Commanders
All Major Component Commanders
CGs/COs, AFPWSSUs
All Joint and Special/Tech Staffs

Annex “A” (Definition of Concepts and Terms) to the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS AND TERMS

1. Collateral Damage - unintended and undesirable civilian personnel injuries or materiel damage adjacent to a target produced by the effects of friendly weapons.

2. Combatant – armed forces of a party to a conflict, such as militia, volunteer corps and organized resistance movements belonging to a party to the conflict that are under responsible command, wearing a fixed distinctive sign, recognizable at a distance, carry their firearms openly, and abide by the laws of war.

3. Combat Board and Search – a method of board and search employed when a suspected ship or watercraft is considered as hostile and was forced to stop at sea or when there is an indication or sign of hostility. This method shall also be employed in any hostile environment.

4. Crew-served weapons - any weapon system that requires more than one individual to operate. Crew-served weapons include, but are not limited to, tanks, artillery pieces, anti-aircraft guns, surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, launchers of biochemical weapons, mortars and machine guns.

5. Elements of Self-Defense - application of force in self-defense requires the following elements:

a. **Necessity** – requires that an armed force shall engage only those forces committing hostile acts or clearly demonstrating hostile intent and that the use of deadly force is justified only in cases in which the necessity of self-defense is instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation.

b. **Proportionality** – requires that the force used be reasonable in intensity, duration, and magnitude, based on all facts known to the Commander at that time, to decisively encounter the hostile act or hostile intent and to ensure the continued safety of one’s own force.

6. Engage – Action taken against a hostile aircraft by interceptor aircraft or by ground to air weapons with intent to deter, damage or neutralize it.

7. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – The maritime zone extending 200 NM from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured as defined in the PD 1599, as promulgated in RA 3046, as amended by RA 5446, and as recognized by UNCLOS.(DFA)

8. Fire Coordination Area - area in which specific restraints have been imposed and in which fires in excess of those restraints will not be delivered without approval of the NCA.

9. High Collateral Damage Targets - targets that, if struck, are estimated to result in significant collateral effects including non-combatant casualties estimated at 30 percent or greater. These are targets that may affect the environment or infrastructure and the like which are not related to adversary's combat capabilities. These include targets close to human shelters.

10. High Seas – Include all parts of the ocean seaward of the EEZ.

11. Hostile Act - an attack or other use of force against AFP forces. It is also force used directly to impede the mission and/or duties of AFP forces.

12. Hostile Aircraft – Aircraft committing a hostile act, identified by a competent observer or confirmed by the Chief, Philippine Air Defense Control Center or his authorized representative as:

13. Hostile Force - any armed force, local or foreign, that has committed a hostile act, exhibited hostile intent, or has been declared hostile by appropriate government authority.

14. Hostile Intent - the threat of imminent use of force against AFP forces. It is also the threat to preclude the mission and/or duties of the AFP, including the recovery of RP personnel or vital property. The context of hostile intent is imminent and demonstrated or exhibited, thus it must be demonstrated or exhibited by behavior. Imminent does not necessarily mean "immediate" or "instantaneous". The logic of responding to hostile intent is to preempt a hostile act. In the absence of specific criteria, hostile intent is a determination based on behavior and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the behavior demanding considerable judgement of command. Hostile intent may be characterized as behavior that, if not responded to, becomes hostile action. The challenge in using force based on hostile intent is "when" and "how." The when is based on necessity, and the how is based on proportionality. Responding too soon risks misinterpreting the behavior, and responding too late is a moot point; the hostile intent

would have become hostile action. This indicates that there are thresholds between a hostile act, hostile intent, and no threat perceived.

15. Individual Self-Defense - the inherent right to use all necessary means available and to take all appropriate actions to defend oneself from a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent.

16. Infrastructure - facilities, structures and related equipment customarily associated with sustainment of the civilian population (public works), such as: communication, facilities (television, telephone, radio, microwave, etc), port facilities, markets, dams, dikes, power generation facilities canals and similar objects.

- a. Belonging to an unfriendly nation;
- b. Operating within the Philippine Air Space without proper clearance; and/or
- c. By its actions, clearly demonstrates a threat to the security and interest of the Republic of the Philippines.

17. Military Target/Object – installations, camps, facilities or objects which, by their nature, location, purpose or use, make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at that time, offers a definite military advantage.

18. National Command Authority (NCA) – is the ultimate lawful source of military orders and refers to the Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of the Philippines or his/her duly designated representative.

19. Non-Combatant – unarmed civilians or persons taking no active part in the hostilities, medical personnel, and personnel of impartial humanitarian and relief organizations, priest/chaplains/imam and those out of combat, including prisoners of war, the wounded and the sick.

20. Non-Military Target/Object – civilian populace, medical, relief, and/or impartial humanitarian organizations, their personnel, materials, transport and facilities; protected places (e.g. those devoted to the dead, religion, art, science or charitable purposes), cultural objects, historic monuments, hospitals or any place where the sick and wounded are treated.

21. Right of Innocent Passage – International law provides that ships of all nations enjoy the right of innocent passage for the purpose of continuous and expeditious traversing of the territorial sea.

Innocent passage includes stopping and anchoring, but only insofar as incidental to ordinary navigation or as rendered necessary by *force majeure* or distress or for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress. Passage is innocent as long as it is not prejudicial to the peace, good, order or security of the Republic of the Philippines.

22. Routine Board and Search – a method of board and search employed when a suspected ship or watercraft stops at sea when ordered to stop and is determined to be non-hostile.

23. Strategic Implications of Tactical Operations - A tactical action acquires strategic implications if it involves public perceptions beyond immediate area of operation; and/or when it involves adverse consequences to the general state of law and order, socioeconomic activity and political stability within and beyond the immediate area of operation.

24. Terrorist and Terrorist Groups/Cells/Facilities – person(s) providing support to or a member of the following local and international terrorist organizations, or any groups/cells/facilities associated therewith AL QAEDA, JEMAAH ISLAMIYAH, NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY, MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT, ABU SAYAFF, KIDNAP-FOR-RANSOM GROUPS, LOST COMMANDS and others as may be later identified by GHQ AFP.

25. Time Sensitive Targets - targets requiring immediate response because they pose (or will pose) a clear and present danger to AFP forces, friendly forces, civilian communities and highly lucrative fleeting targets of opportunity.

26. Unit Self-Defense - the act of defending a particular AFP element, including individual personnel thereof and other AFP forces in the vicinity, against a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent.

27. Unlawful Aggression - equivalent to assault or at least threatened assault of an immediate or imminent kind. There is unlawful aggression when the peril to one's life or limb is either actual or imminent.

Annex “B” (Rules for Ground Operations) to the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

RULES FOR GROUND OPERATIONS

1. Basic Principles

a. All AFP units, elements and personnel involved in ground operations must adhere to the General Rules of Self-Defense.

b. All AFP units, elements and personnel involved in ground operations must adhere to the General Rules for the Correct Use of Force for the Accomplishment of Mission.

2. Conduct of Operation in General

a. The right to choose the means and methods of warfare is not unlimited.

b. Military operation other than war (MOOTW) demands greater restraint in the use of force or applicability of combat power.

c. In all situations, the use of force must be in consonance with the rules of necessity and proportionality

d. The authority to use force may be limited but such limitation has no impact on the commander's as well as a soldier's right and obligation of self-defense.

e. At all times, a distinction shall be made between:

- 1) Combatants and non-combatants; and
- 2) Military objectives and non-military objects.

f. In all military actions, constant precaution shall be taken to spare non-combatants and non-military objects.

g. Civilians and civilian property may not be the subject or sole object of a military attack.

h. When operating within or near populated areas, appropriate security and safety measures shall be taken by the commander to prevent or minimize civilian casualties and damage to property, i.e. clear, and where necessary, limit the area occupied by

unit; restrict, if not regulate access to the camp; give specific instruction to the members of the unit and appropriate information to the civilian population regarding their presence in the area.

i. Except when the exigencies of military operation demands, no field operative shall take possession or exploit any property of the local populace without their explicit acquiescence or approval.

j. It is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population specifically for the purpose of starvation (e.g. foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installation and supplies, irrigation work, etc); unless such object are used solely for the sustenance or in direct support to a hostile force.

k. It is prohibited to use civilian persons or inhabited areas to shield military units, movement and or/position.

l. Acts or threats of violence with a primary purpose to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.

m. The use of deadly force against an enemy who, having laid down his arm, or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered, is prohibited.

n. Crew-served weapons are considered a threat to AFP forces whether or not the crew demonstrates hostile intent. Commanders are authorized to use all necessary force to confiscate and demilitarize crew-served weapons in the area of operations. Confiscated weapons shall immediately be turned-over to appropriate AFP units pursuant to current AFP SOP's/Guidelines and procedures.

3. Conduct of Attack

a. Before the conduct of any offensive strike or attack, all ground commanders shall clearly designate, assign/or identify the specific military objective and/or target and determine the best possible approach, taking into consideration the presence of noncombatants and non-military objects in the area of operation, based on all known facts available.

b. An attack is prohibited when it treats as a single military objective a number of clearly separated and distinct military objectives in the city, town, village or other area containing a similar concentration of non combatants or civilian objects.

c. The direction and the time of the attack shall be chosen so as to limit civilian casualties and damages (e.g. attack of factory after normal working hours).

d. When a choice is possible among several military objectives for obtaining similar military advantages, the objective to be selected shall be that which would cause the least danger to non-combatants and non-military objects.

e. Targets for particular weapons and fire unit shall be determined and assigned with the same precaution as to military objectives, specifically taking into account the tactical results expected (e.g. destruction, neutralization) and the destructive power of the ammunition used (quantity, ballistic data, precision, point or area coverage, possible effects on the environment).

f. When tactical situation permits, effective advance warning shall be given of attack that may affect the civilian populace (e.g. infantry fire to encourage civilian persons to seek shelter, discharge of leaflets.)

g. An attack shall be deviated or cancelled if the objectives or target appears to be non-military.

4. Conduct of Defense

a. All field operatives are duty bound to protect and defend themselves from any or all threats to life or serious bodily harm. The use of deadly force in self-defense is authorized when:

- 1) Fired upon;
- 2) Armed elements mobs, and/or rioters pose actual or imminent threats to one's own life of another AFP soldier, or the life of civilians in the area of operation; and
- 3) There is a clear demonstration of hostile intent.

b. Hostile intent of opposing forces can be determined by unit leaders or individual soldiers if leaders are not present. Factors that should be considered include:

- 1) Presence and types of weapons;
- 2) If weapons are present, the manner in which they are displayed;
- 3) Size of the opposing force;

- 4) Response of opposing force to AFP forces; and
- 5) Act of opposing force toward unarmed civilians.

c. Once a threat group has been declared a hostile opposing force, unit or personnel may engage without observing the hostile act or a demonstration of hostile intent.

d. Defense shall be organized primarily outside the populated areas. Non-combatants and civilian object shall be removed from military objectives. For this purpose, commanders shall seek the cooperation of the civilian authorities.

e. When a choice is possible among several defense position for obtaining a similar military advantage, the position to be selected shall be on the one which would cause the least danger to non combatants and civilian objects.

f. The relocation of civilian person from the vicinity of military objectives shall take place preferably to location known to them and which present no danger to them.

g. The removal of civilian objects shall take place primarily to relocate them to areas outside the vicinity of military objectives.

h. In addition to the removal and/or relocation of civilians and civilian object, field commanders shall undertake additional danger reducing measures.

i. When tactical situation permit, defense measures that may affect civilians shall be announced by effective advance warnings (e.g. evacuation of specific houses or areas).

5. Movements

a. Movements which have to pass through or close to populated areas shall be executed rapidly.

b. Movements and/or halts of military units near civilian objects must be limited to a minimum.

c. Units located within or near populated areas shall be deployed in such a way as to ensure the least possible danger to the non-combatant and non-military targets in the areas (e.g. appropriate distance between military used houses and facilities).

6. Indirect Fire Support Guidelines

a. Artillery fires can be delivered subject to approval of immediate tactical commander not lower than Brigade/Regimental level.

b. Mortar fires can be delivered subject to the discretion of the Battalion Commander.

c. Preparation fires can be delivered on confirmed hostile enemy position prior to attack or defensive action subject to the approval/direction of the Brigade/equivalent level Commander.

d. During actual engagement where security of an AFP unit or critical installation/facility is threatened and time is of the essence, the commander of the engaged unit, through his own authority, may selectively apply available fire support means to defend his unit or position.

e. Restriction in the use of field artillery/mortar assets are set on the following:

- 1) Harassing and interdiction (H & I) fires;
- 2) Unobserved fire missions; and
- 3) Fires on targets within populated areas or when undesirable civilian casualties/material damages are expected.

Annex “C” (Rules for Naval Operations) to the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

RULES FOR NAVAL OPERATIONS

1. Basic Principles

- a. All Philippine Navy sailors must adhere to the General Rules for Self-Defense.
- b. All Philippine Navy sailors must adhere to the General Rules for the Correct Use of Force for the Accomplishment of Mission.
- c. Safety of ships/craft and personnel is paramount at all times.

2. Conduct of Internal Security Operations

- a. Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS)
 - 1) As a general rule, naval guns may be delivered ashore to support ground operation only with the expressed approval of the Operational Commander or by the Commander of the Task Force through the PN unit Commanding Officer. However such NGFS would require a trained spotter on the ground. The process of requesting NGFS shall be in accordance with the NGFS manual.
 - 2) When friendly forces are threatened and there is no time to clear the use of naval guns, the On-Scene Commander may conduct NGFS to the best advantage of the supported ground forces provided that such request has been properly authenticated and a trained spotter is on the ground providing the necessary adjustments to firing orders. Other situations can be considered, such as to wit:
 - a) When identified enemy is engaging forces ashore, NGFS can be conducted:
 - i. When requested by friendly shore/ground forces.
 - ii. When determined as a target of opportunity by the ship/boat captain.
 - b) When location of enemy concentration is positively identified:

i. Fire to hit and neutralize the enemy when bombardment area is clear of civilians and friendly forces.

ii. If the line of fire to the enemy is toward a populated area, cease or hold fire.

b. Board and Search

1) Routine Board and Search during daytime:

a) General Quarters (GQ) shall be set when a suspected ship/craft is sighted.

b) When the suspected ship/craft is determined to be non-hostile by the CO or the Boat Captain, he may reduce the level of combat readiness of the ship/craft. This shall be done during daytime only since show of force may instill fear and apprehension on the crew or passengers of the suspected ship/craft.

c) Gunners must remain at their respective gun stations with the guns pointed towards a safe direction but ready for immediate use.

d) Once alongside, Board and Search party upon orders shall board the suspected ship or watercraft ensuring that guards are posted to watch the crew and passengers of the suspected ship/craft.

e) Mooring lines must be tied securely but looped as provision for emergency break-away.

f) Immediate GQ must be set in case the crew or passengers of the suspected ship or watercraft become hostile or attempt to fight.

g) Issue Boarding Certificate after the conduct of board and search when there is no violation. Resume normal watch only upon completion of board and search.

h) If there is a violation, issue Inspection and Apprehension Report (IAR), provide a prize crew and tow same to the nearest appropriate authorities for proper disposition.

2) Routine Board and Search during nighttime:

a) During period of darkness or low visibility, combat readiness shall be observed while approaching the

suspected ship or watercraft especially when it is unlighted. The crew must be on GQ before approaching any suspected vessel for interception. Boarding team shall be ready for boarding upon signal from the bridge.

b) Once alongside, Board and Search party upon orders shall board the suspected ship or watercraft ensuring that guards are posted to watch the crew and passengers.

c) Gunners must remain at their respective gun stations with the guns pointed towards a safe direction but ready for immediate use.

d) Mooring lines must be tied securely but looped as provision for emergency break-away.

e) Issue Boarding Certificate after the conduct of board and search when there is no violation. Resume normal watch only upon completion of board and search.

f) If there is a violation, issue Inspection and Apprehension Report (IAR), provide a prize crew and tow same to the nearest appropriate authorities for proper disposition.

3) Combat Board and Search

a) When the suspected ship or watercraft is considered as hostile and was forced to stop at sea, the CO or Boat Captain must maintain utmost combat readiness of the ship/craft. Announce General Quarters at not later than 1 NM before approaching hostile vessel.

b) Approach the suspected ship or watercraft with extreme caution and always stay at advantage position whereby great volume of fire can be delivered effectively to inflict the maximum damage hostilities.

c) At a distance of 300 yards, the CO or Boat Captain shall instruct all the crew and passengers by PA System or megaphone to come out to the weather deck and position themselves where they could be seen best.

d) As soon as the crew and passengers have complied with the instruction, the CO or Boat Captain continues the approach and comes alongside. Mooring lines must be tied securely but looped as provision for emergency break away.

e) Once alongside, Board and Search Party shall board the suspected ship or water craft ensuring that guards are posted to watch the crew and passengers.

f) Issue Board and Search Certification and IAR as necessary.

g) Ensure that combat readiness is maintained until apprehended ship or watercraft and or captured person are turned over to proper authorities.

c. General Actions

1) If suspicious craft initiate the following actions:

a) Stop/Lie to – Apprehending unit moves closer with precaution (on GQ), comes alongside. Crew of intercepted craft should be exposed in open deck, through PAS or appropriate communication system, then unit conducts board and search.

b) Without violation – issue a boarding certificate and release the suspicious craft and its crew.

c) With violation – effect apprehensions by issuance of Interception and Apprehension Report (AIR). Inventory confiscated items with proper receipt and POW/escort watercraft to nearest Coast Guard station for disposition of apprehended persons and watercraft. If persons apprehended are confirmed insurgent/rebel, turn over to Hq Naval Forces (HNF).

2) Attempt to escape or evade - After challenging or giving warning shot and suspicious craft increase its speed with intention to escape or evade, fire to disable especially if the speed is 20 knots and above and in the border area or in other areas as specified by the Area Commander. Also, contact by radio any AFP units for assistance to effect apprehension. If craft is hit and disabled, rescue enemy casualties, render appropriate attention, tow craft if possible and turn over to nearest Coast Guard Station or PNP Maritime Station for disposition to include apprehended persons.

d. Hostile Fire – Upon challenging by firing warning shots and suspicious craft starts shooting or firing at the apprehending unit, fire to neutralize subject craft, effect apprehension, rescue casualties, render appropriate medical attention and tow craft (if possible) to the nearest Coast Guard Station or PNP Maritime Station for disposition of apprehended persons and crafts.

e. When there are women and children aboard the hostile craft, maneuver and fire to disable craft thru precision firing exerting every effort to avoid hitting innocent passengers.

f. Apprehended persons, crafts, articles and goods must be handled and disposed of in accordance with current policies, guidelines and procedures. Enemy casualty must be rescued and given immediate/appropriate medical attention.

3. Conduct of Territorial Defense

a. Interdiction Operation against foreign naval vessel

1) In the event that a PN vessel discovers the unwarranted and unauthorized presence of a foreign naval vessel or warship in RP territorial sea, the unit concerned shall:

a) Report the presence of the foreign naval vessel or warship to his Task Force/ Operational Commander and shall keep the communication open. Diligent documentation and recording of specific activities shall be strictly observed.

b) See to it that our national color is hoisted.

c) Establish communication by all means and determine its intention, without movement of the guns or showing any hostile/provocative action. The CO of the unit must see to it that the message is received and understood by the foreign naval vessel or warship.

2) If the vessel leaves or provides a lawful intent, monitor and render appropriate report to the operational commander.

3) If the foreign naval vessel or warship persists with her course, the PN vessel shall continue to communicate until the foreign vessel leaves Philippine waters, without showing any hostile or provocative action.

4) If the foreign naval vessel or warship does not leave and simply ignores the message, the CO of the PN vessel shall continuously monitor the movement, again without showing any hostile or provocative acts and report to his Task Force/Operational Commander for appropriate actions.

5) If the intruding naval vessel show provocation or hostile act such that it went on General Quarters, the CO of PN vessel should counteract with a proportional action against the

intruding vessel. However, continuously establish communication to determine the real intention of the intruding vessel. Any hostile act performed by the intruding vessel shall be recorded and shall be transmitted to his immediate operational commander. In the exercise of his judgment, the Unit CO shall apply the principles of proportionality, necessity, and self-preservation.

b. Board and Search. The same procedures apply with the conduct of Board and Search as elaborated in Internal Security Operations.

4. Conduct of Naval Operations at Scarborough Shoal and Its Environs

a. If an identified surface contact is determined to be moving towards the shoal or on a course that brings said contact to a closest point of approach (CPA) inside the 12-mile exclusion zone, the PN patrol ship/craft will go to GENERAL QUARTERS and communicate with the contact by radio. The PN patrol ship/craft will challenge the unidentified contact in the following manner ... “Unknown ship/vessel/craft ___ miles (range) ____ (bearing) of Scarborough Shoal this is the Philippine Navy Ship ____ (Bow Nr) on EEZ maritime patrol, identify your self and state your intention ... Be advised that you are in Philippine waters and moving towards the Philippine exclusion zone. Stay clear of Scarborough shoal by twelve miles”.

b. The movement of the contact will be continuously monitored by the PN patrol/craft. If the warning is not heeded, PN patrol ship/craft will move to intercept and signal intruder to keep out of the exclusion zone. PN patrol ship/craft will maneuver to block the path of any persistent intruder.

c. Challenge using voice radio communication shall be augmented with the use of the ships siren, flashing light, hand signal and flares. When conducting challenge, PN patrol should be ready to intercept/fight/fire, as the situation demands.

d. Commanding Officer of PN patrol ship/craft will immediately inform his operational commander of any surface contact that has been determined to be moving towards the shoal. The operational commander should be continually updated on the situation.

e. Upon contact with any suspicious vessel/craft either visually or by other means, determine by indication/manifestation whether it has the capability to fight/evade and whether or not there are children and/or other non-combatants aboard.

f. If suspicious vessel/craft make any of the following action:

1) Veer away from the exclusion zone when warned to keep away from the shoal – PN units will allow said vessel/craft to proceed, but will continue to monitor her movements until certain that she has left the area.

2) Suspicious Vessel/craft enters the exclusion zone and stopped/lie-to when ordered to stop – PN units (on GQ) move closer to contact, direct crew and passengers of intercepted vessel/craft to show themselves on the deck, then conduct board and search. The conduct of board and search will adhere strictly to published SOP on Board and Search.

a) Without violation – The PN unit will issue a boarding certificate duly received by the Captain/Patron of the boarded vessel/craft, release and show out of the area.

b) With violation – The head of the boarding Team or the Apprehending Officer in the presence of the Commanding Officer/Boat Captain or Executive Officer shall apprise the master/patron that he and the rest of the crew of his vessel are apprehended; the specific offense as basis of apprehension; their right to remain silent and to counsel (in English or language/dialect of the arrested person). In case apprehended person cannot understand because of language barrier, he (they) shall still be informed of said rights in English. This act shall be recorded in the ship's logbook and shall be included in the affidavit that may be executed by concerned officer.

c) Boarding Officer effects apprehension by issuing Inspection and Apprehension Report (IAR). The act of advising apprehended persons of their right shall also be entered in the IAR. Inventory confiscated items and issue proper receipt and tow/escort vessel craft to nearest Coast Guard Station for disposition of apprehended persons and watercraft.

3) Hostile fire – if suspicious vessel/craft start shooting or firing when challenged, fire to neutralize, effect apprehension using combat board and search, render medical assistance, and tow craft if it is still seaworthy to nearest Coast Guard Station for proper disposition.

g. PN patrol vessel units may engage armed craft of foreign naval forces in combat in self-defense, if there is imminent danger to them from the latter. The means of engagement to be employed is proportional to the danger posed.

h. PN forces may engage armed craft or foreign naval forces in combat if the latter is declared hostile by proper authority.

i. In case of doubt, unit CO shall seek guidance, from immediate operational Commander by any fastest means of communication.

j. If unit CO is unable to contact higher headquarters for guidance, he shall act to protect the interest of the Republic of the Philippines.

5. Conduct of Naval Operations at the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG)

a. If an unidentified surface contact is determined to be moving towards these areas or on course that brings the said contact to a closest point of approach (CPA) inside the zone, the PN patrol ship/craft will go to GQ and communicate with the contact by radio. The PN patrol ship/craft will challenge the unidentified surface contact in the following manner... "Unknown ship/vessel/craft ____ miles (range) ____ (bearing) of ____ (nearest island/reference point), this is Philippine Navy Ship ____ (Bow Nr) on EEZ maritime and sovereignty patrol, identify yourself and signify your intention... Be advised that you are on Philippine waters. Stay clear of this area".

b. The movement of the contact will be continuously monitored by the PN patrol ship/craft. If the warning is not heeded, PN patrol ship/craft will move to intercept and signal intruder to keep out of the area. PN patrol ship/craft will maneuver to block the path of any persistent intruder.

c. Challenge using voice radio communication shall be augmented with the use of the ships siren, flashing light, hand signal and flares. When conducting challenge, PN patrol should be ready to intercept/fight/fire, as the situation demands.

d. Commanding Officer of PN patrol ship/craft will immediately inform his operational commander of any surface contact in the AOR. The operational commander should be continually updated on the situation.

e. Upon contact with any suspicious vessel/craft either visually or other means, determine by indication/manifestation whether it has the capability to fight/evade and whether or not there are children and/or other non-combatants aboard.

f. If suspicious vessel/craft make any of the following action:

1) Veers away from the exclusion zone when warned to keep away – PN unit will allow said vessel/craft to proceed, but will continue to monitor her movements until certain that she has left the area.

2) Suspicious Vessel/craft able to enter the area and stopped/lie-to when ordered to stop – PN unit move closer to contact (on GQ), direct crew and passengers of intercepted vessel/craft to show themselves on the deck, then conduct board and search. The conduct of board and search will adhere strictly to published SOP on Board and Search.

a) Without violation – The PN unit will issue a boarding certificate duly received by the Captain/Patron of the boarded vessel/craft, released, and showed out of the area.

b) With violation – The head of the boarding team or the Apprehending Officer in the presence of the PN unit Commanding Officer/Boat Captain or Executive Officer shall apprise the master/patron that he and the rest of the crew of his vessel are apprehended; the specific offense as basis of apprehension is cited; their right to remain silent and to counsel in English or any dialect of the arrested person. In case apprehended person(s) cannot understand because of language barrier, he (they) shall still be informed of the situation and the said rights in English. This act shall be recorded in the ship's logbook and shall be included in the affidavit that may be executed by concerned officer.

3) Boarding Officer effects apprehension by issuing an Inspection and Apprehension Report (IAR). The act of advising apprehended persons of their rights shall also be entered in the IAR. Confiscated items shall be inventoried and issued proper receipt. Vessel/craft shall be towed/escorted to nearest Coast Guard Station or naval facility for disposition of apprehended persons and watercraft.

4) Hostile fire – if suspicious vessel/craft start shooting or firing when challenged, fire to disable the vessel. Fire to neutralize ONLY IN SELF-DEFENSE, effect apprehension using combat board and search, render medical assistance, and tow vessel/craft if it is still sea worthy to nearest Coast Guard Station or Naval facility for proper disposition.

g. PN patrol vessel units may engage armed vessel/craft of foreign naval forces ONLY IN SELF-DEFENSE, if there is imminent danger from the latter, and the means of engagement to be employed is proportional to the danger posed.

h. PN forces may engage armed vessel/craft or foreign Naval forces in the latter is declared hostile by proper authority.

i. In case of doubt, unit CO shall seek guidance, from immediate Operational Commander by radio.

j. If unit CO cannot contact higher headquarters for guidance, he shall act to protect to interest of the Republic of the Philippines

k. In cases of positive sightings and apprehension of vessel or/aircraft, a report thereon will be rendered to the operational commander. Continually render report at appropriate intervals in case of military intrusion.

Annex “D” (Rules for Air Operations) to the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

RULES FOR AIR OPERATIONS

1. Basic Principles

a. All AFP units, elements and personnel involved in air operations must adhere to the General Rules for Self-Defense.

b. All AFP units, elements and personnel involved in air operations must adhere to the General Rules for the Correct Use of Force for the Accomplishment of Mission.

2. Conduct of Internal Security Operations

a. As a general rule, ordnance delivery must be applied selectively and its effects modified to preclude harming the population.

b. The following areas are designated as no-fire areas:

1) Heavily populated areas (concentration of civilian/non-combatant people).

2) Places of religious worship, archeological, historical sites, and other specified areas.

3) The National Capital Region and other specified population centers/areas are designated as Fire Coordination Areas.

c. Concept of Employment of Close Air Support/Battlefield Interdiction depends upon the prevailing situation in the area of operation. The following rules shall be observed:

1) Whenever armed aircraft goes out in armed reconnaissance or any tactical mission, the aircraft commander should be briefed by a responsible officer of the supported forces about the disposition of friendly forces/element in the area. Any force or element in the area not mentioned in the disposition of friendly forces should be considered as probable hostile force.

2) In the event of unprovoked armed attack against military personnel, equipment and installation, PAF armed

aircraft in the area will take immediate and aggressive pursuit or response.

3) PAF aircraft may soften with bombs and rockets heavily defended areas declared as “no man’s land” by surface forces if cleared by higher headquarters to use such weapons prior to entry of the main missions.

4) In Close Air Support (CAS), forward air controllers shall be employed for strike control to insure safe, accurate and effective strike missions.

5) Pilots shall not drop neither bombs nor rockets and fire guns in thickly forested or vegetated area unless positive identification of enemy location is established.

6) Pilots could attack the target in populated areas only if they were cause of the threats identification and location.

d. Declaration of Hostile Forces and Engagements:

1) Authority to declare enemy forces hostile and order against such forces is vested on the area ground commander or his authorized representative.

2) During reconnaissance, pilots who observed enemy force committing a hostile act are authorized to take action. Any forces or elements in the area not mentioned in the disposition of friendly forces should be considered as probably hostile. Armed aircraft when fired upon must engage and destroy such hostile force.

3) In the event of unprovoked armed attack against military personnel, equipment and installation, PAF armed aircraft in the area will take immediate and aggressive pursuit operation response.

e. The following restriction must be adhered to strictly in the conduct of close air support:

1) General purpose bombs 500 lbs and below, and rockets will not be delivered without clearance from the Area Commander.

2) General purpose bombs above 500 lbs should be cleared by CSAFP.

3) Pilots must never under any circumstances drop a bomb without having a clearance from Forward Air Controllers (FAC).

4) Strafing runs will be directed to known or suspected insurgent targets only as pinpointed by the Forward Air controllers and upon request of ground tactical unit.

3. Conduct of External Defense Operations

a. The SROE shall apply after enemy forces refused to stop and showed hostile acts or initiated offensive actions against AFP units.

b. The SROE shall be strictly followed by all PAF forces tasked to patrol and recon the Philippine territory and EEZ.

c. Flights that cannot be identified as friendly when entering or while within the Philippine Airspace shall be declared unknown and may be intercepted by air defense aircraft.

d. Intercepted aircraft will be advised to land for interrogation, on a zone determined by the CG, Philippine Air Force or the Air Defense Commander, considering the following conditions:

1) If the aircraft belongs to a country covered by a Mutual Defense Treaty, it can be advised to land on a major airfield of the country.

2) If the aircraft is armed, it shall be advised to land on safe and isolated landing zones, away from the populated areas.

3) If the aircraft is found to be in the state of distress, it shall be subjected to international law on giving assistance to distressed aircraft.

4) Any other intercepted aircraft will be escorted to the designated landing zone.

5) An intruding aircraft once declared hostile shall be engaged and destroyed.

e. Declaration of Hostile Aircraft and Engagement

1) Declaration of hostile aircraft and the order to engage is a matter of utmost importance and demands considerable judgment of the command. Authority to declare an aircraft as hostile and order an attack against such aircraft is vested in the President of the Republic of the Philippines, AFP Chief of Staff, PAF Commanding General and/or Air Defense Commander. Declaring authorities can

order attack to the hostile aircraft only in accordance with the national command directives and procedures.

2) Individuals authorized to declare aircraft as hostile are authorized to employ all available means within their command to counter/control such hostile aircraft. However, every effort should be made to control such hostile aircraft without the use of force. When the situation requires employment of force, the magnitude of force and actions shall be commensurate to the threat. If pursuit is initiated, it shall be discontinued when the hostile aircraft no longer poses immediate threat.

3) Limitation of authority to declare an aircraft as hostile and to direct engagement shall not restrict lower unit commanders from taking appropriate actions to defend their forces and/or resources against attack. Interceptor aircrew shall take appropriate action proportionate to the threat.

f. Action When a Force is Declared Hostile

1) An aircraft may not be engaged unless it has been observed committing a hostile act, demonstrating a hostile intent or has been declared hostile.

2) Every effort must be made to avoid the direct use of force. Such actions as maneuvers, visual signals, radio transmissions, warning shots, and other comparable measures which do not involve the direct application of force should be utilized. If the use of these measures cannot bring the situation under control and immediate forceful defensive action is required, the use of necessary and proportionate force is authorized. The nature and scope of actions taken should not exceed the minimum necessary to control the situation. An attack to disable or destroy hostile aircraft or vessels is authorized only when it becomes evident that such action is the only means by which a hostile act can be prevented or terminated. When disablement or destructive action is required, engagement/immediate pursuit may be conducted as necessary and feasible until the hostile force no longer poses an immediate threat.

4. Conduct of Maritime Patrol Operations

a. The conduct of Maritime Patrol Operations may be joint or unilateral operations. It is meant to facilitate the conduct of homogeneous Maritime Patrol Operations, safeguard the security, safety and interest of the Republic of the Philippines and the people and set the extent of the PAF responsibility in the conduct of crisis and peacetime Maritime Patrol Operations.

b. Peacetime Environment

1) All missions planning shall include the status and position of ships and craft of friendly forces to include the surface patrol schedules, call signs and frequencies used in all Air Band Communication System. For enhanced coordination, the PAF shall provide the other services with its flight schedules.

2) All surface vessel and submarines that are within or transiting the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), territorial waters and recognized boundaries should be detected, identified and processed. Information gathered shall be collected and analyzed to build up a picture of shipping movements and dispositions so that potential military threats can be identified.

3) The LRPA shall not go lower than 5,000 feet in altitude and five (5) miles distance from any suspected surface vessel or submarine.

4) Any vessel identified to be conducting any illegal activities as specified under Philippine laws shall be confronted as follows:

5) Inform concerned operational commanders and relay information on the size, type and number of vessel, position, speed, direction and activity of the vessel. Information updates and other information may be required as outlined in the MOA with other government agencies and organization.

6) The PN shall confront, pursue or negotiate with the vessel unless otherwise delegated. Maximum restraint (define) will be exercised by PAF.

7) Inform appropriate agencies if the target vessel is entering other waters of whom the Philippines has a defense cooperation or agreement related to the activity of the target vessel as outlined in the MOA with other agencies.

8) The PADCC monitors the conduct of Maritime Patrol Operations, and if required alerts and scrambles fighter elements to protect the LRPA from any threat. If necessary, neutralize the threat in accordance with the established Air Defense procedures.

9) When PAF aircraft is involved in the external defense mode, the Philippine Air Defense Commander shall exercise command and control over the LRPA in the conduct of the Maritime Patrol Operations otherwise, command and control will emanate from the Operational Commanders concerned.

10) Distress signal received from any aircraft and surface vessel is top priority. LRPA shall locate, report, and monitor the distressed for the expeditious assistance and/or rescue of survivors. It shall be transmitted to concerned Operational Commanders and the appropriate agencies for required action.

c. In Times of Crisis

1) Conditions for Peacetime Environment applies, which include:

a) The LRPA shall not go lower than maximum effective range of the vessels anti-aircraft and surface to air missiles or the maximum distance possible enabling observation and identification functions by the LRPA.

b) If the target ship or craft is hostile and with intent to engage, the LRPA shall immediately fly to a safe distance away from its radar coverage and effective range.

c) If the only means of survival is to neutralize the target vessel or craft, then it shall be done with the appropriate munitions enough to disable its weapons aiming and delivery system. PADCC shall alert and order fighter elements accordingly.

d. Release of any type of ordnance to neutralize hostile vessel or craft will have to be cleared by competent authority.

Annex “E” (Rules for Crisis Situation and Hostage Rescue Operation) to the AFP Standing Rules of Engagement

**RULES FOR CRISIS SITUATION
AND HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATION**

When the AFP, by virtue of its mandate, capabilities and resources becomes the primary agency to address the crisis situation arising out of the action of criminals, terrorists elements or mentally-deranged individual such as hostage-taking, hijacking, kidnappings, ambushade, arson and other types of violence to pursue their ends, the following national policies and guidelines shall be adhered to and strictly implemented.

1. General

a. The use of armed action should be employed only after all peaceful means have been exhausted and in a graduated manner commensurate to the situation.

b. Under all circumstances, the use of force, including firearms, is justifiable only by virtue of the impulse of self-defense in order to avoid an actual, immediate and unlawful aggression and protect a person unlawfully attacked.

c. The use of force, especially the determination of the appropriate type/kind of firearm, shall be carefully considered to avoid crossfire and prevent general damage to third parties.

d. Under any circumstances, a proportionate force to neutralize the suspect and/or his vehicle is sufficient. As much as practicable, sirens and megaphones shall be used to influence/warn the offenders/suspects to stop and/or give up peacefully.

e. In case of actual shoot-out with the suspect(s), panic firing should be avoided. The designated leader of the employed unit/team should see to it that his subordinates fire their firearms only when necessary.

f. The AFP shall not compromise nor take any concession to terrorists even if it involves the life of its personnel and destruction of its assets. The AFP shall act promptly, decisively and effectively, choosing from the whole range of military action appropriate to the circumstances.

g. The safety of civilian hostages shall be of paramount consideration.

h. Regardless of the situation, the human rights of both the victims and the perpetrators should be observed at all times.

i. Maximize coordination and integration of capabilities and expertise of operating units to attain optimum results and to minimize duplication, eliminate unnecessary competition and confusion.

j. Achieve early liberation of the hostage(s) or victim(s).

k. Tactical option shall only be resorted to when all peaceful and non-violent means have already been exhausted and/or the lives of the hostages are in imminent danger.

l. The chairman of the Crisis Management Committee (CMC) in the locality, upon recommendation of the on-scene commander, shall determine when the tactical option is to be applied.

m. There shall only be one on-scene commander responsible for the tactical option.

n. Negotiation with the hostage takers by the military shall only be undertaken to convince hostage takers to give-up peacefully and to buy time to isolate and contain the perpetrators.

o. The use of force and weapons shall be reasonable and proportional to the requirements necessary to accomplish the mission to avoid overkill tendencies and excessive use of force.

p. Unnecessary display of firearms outside of the identified area of engagement shall be avoided.

q. The doctrine of hot pursuit, in accordance to United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), shall be applied in situations when hostage-takers flee the Philippine Area of Responsibility by sea.

2. Hostage Rescue Operation

a. Before Operation

1) Upon receipt of directive from the CMC to resolve or assist in resolving a particular hostage-taking situation, the AFP units tasked to conduct the operation shall locate, contain and isolate identified areas of the hostage-takers to deny them avenues of

escape, or ways by which said perpetrators can receive help or support of any kind.

2) The on-scene commander, through his tactical component commanders, shall ensure that the mission requirements match the unit capability.

3) Intelligence collection shall always be vigorously pursued to feed the operating units with timely answers to EEIs.

4) Coordination among operating units and other units having jurisdiction over the area shall be maintained to ensure immediate cooperation and avoid misencounter.

5) Members of the military rescue operating teams shall be briefed on the details of their respective participation to avoid miscoordination.

6) Provisions for evacuation and medical facilities shall be planned, pre-positioned and coordinated in advance prior to the conduct of the rescue operations.

7) Hostages who are released or have escaped shall be isolated and properly debriefed so that information about the hostage takers can be fully exploited.

b. During operation

1) For tactical consideration, the order to initiate the assault of the hostage-takers' position shall emanate from the on-scene commander.

2) The rescue team may open fire against the hostage-taker when he is in the act of or about to use firearm or any other weapon, and his action is likely to endanger the life or cause serious injury to the hostages, innocent bystanders and AFP personnel involved in the operation.

3) The assault shall be directed and limited to a specific objective/target that is clearly identified, designated and assigned.

4) The on-scene commander, in coordination with the CMC, shall determine the priority of targets in multiple-site situations.

5) The members of the rescue team shall occupy first their respective positions before commencing fire to achieve the element of surprise.

6) The rescue team shall exercise appropriate fire discipline so as not to endanger the lives of the hostages and/or third parties.

7) Recall of the rescue team shall be the prerogative of the CMC. However, recall is limited only up to or before the front-up position of the team, before the assault order is given.

8) Air and naval assets, when directed to perform reconnaissance mission, shall maintain safe distance upon the establishment of contact with the perpetrators to avoid hostile fire and so as not to endanger the lives of the hostages, as well as not to provoke the hostage-takers from undertaking violent action.

9) Artillery, close air support fires or naval gunfires shall only be delivered upon expressed approval by the CMC or as directed by higher authorities, or after confirming that the targets are cleared of the hostages.

10) All arrests shall be effected pursuant to the pertinent laws and regulations concerning arrests.

11) No unnecessary or excessive use of force shall be resorted to in making arrests, and the persons arrested shall not be subjected to greater restraint than what is necessary to subdue any aggressive/violent acts.

c. After Operation

1) The handling of captured/arrested perpetrators shall be the responsibility of the special operations team leader. They shall be treated humanely but firmly.

2) Necessary sketches and pictures shall immediately be obtained and investigative requirements accomplished. All policies pertaining to crime scene preservation shall apply.

3) Captured hostage-takers shall be turned over to the Philippine National Police (PNP) after tactical interrogation.

4) Wounded hostages shall immediately be evacuated to the nearest hospital. Minor hostages shall be turned over to the, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the rest of

the hostages to the local PNP unit after proper interrogation and debriefing.

5) The rescue team shall pullout from the scene of incident upon resolution of the hostage-taking situation unless otherwise directed by higher authorities.

6) The operating unit shall ensure the recovery and the prompt return to the rightful owner of the loot and fruits of the crime.

7) Necessary report shall be prepared to ensure the Successful prosecution of the case against the perpetrators and/or the suspects of the crime.

8) Debriefing of the rescue team shall be conducted after every operation to draw the lessons learned and further hone the members of the operating unit for future operations.

**Annex “F” (Rules for Law Enforcement Operations) to the AFP
Standing Rules of Engagement**

RULES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

1. Prior to the Conduct of Operations

a. A briefing shall be presided by the duly designated on-scene commander to the participating/committed elements on the nature of the operations to be conducted, as to the background and objective of the operations and the specific rules applicable to the type of operations to be conducted.

b. Person-to-person coordination among the operating units and with the units having jurisdiction over the area shall be done to ensure immediate cooperation and avoid mis-encounter.

2. Law Enforcement Operations

a. Civil Disturbance Management

1) The involvement of AFP CDM unit(s) shall be limited in support for the maintenance of peace and order as well as the enforcement of laws and legal orders.

2) AFP personnel involved in CDM operations should be trained prior to deployment.

3) AFP CDM personnel detailed to maintain order during mass actions, demonstrations and rallies shall at all times observe courtesy, be in proper uniform (with namecloth/nameplate), and be equipped with basic crowd control equipment (truncheons shield and helmets).

4) CDM unit/s shall be stationed in a strategic position where its presence can deter any untoward incident or the commission of criminal acts.

5) The CDM unit/s shall stay outside the 50-meter radius from the picket line in a mass action area. If the 50-meter radius includes a public thoroughfare, they may station themselves in such place for the purpose of ensuring the free flow of traffic.

6) Strikers and/or persons involved in mass actions, demonstrations and rallies shall be treated humanely. The infliction of physical harm upon them shall be avoided as much as possible.

7) No arrest of any leader, organizer or participant shall be made during the public assembly unless a violation of pertinent laws was committed, is being committed or about to be committed.

8) All CDM units/personnel shall exercise maximum tolerance during mass actions, demonstrations and rallies. Excessive or unreasonable use of force shall always be avoided.

9) When all other peaceful and non-violent means have already been exhausted, when the safety of AFP personnel is threatened, as a last resort, reasonable force to prevent or repel aggression and/or to restore order.

10) The AFP CDM Security Force shall always be deployed with the AFP CDM contingent. It shall secure the CDM personnel and serves as crowd dispersal contingent of the AFP. It shall be equipped with water canons, tear gas, blank bullets, rubber bullets, live bullets and individual protective equipment.

11) Employment of Armored Personnel Carrier for crowd dispersal shall be utilized only when the situation necessitates as directed.

b. Security Patrols

1) Security patrols are authorized to secure the immediate environs.

2) Covert patrols may use deadly force if fired upon or if they encounter opposing forces which evidence a hostile intent.

3) Non-deadly force or a graduated show of force should be used if the security of AFP forces is not compromised by doing so. A graduated show of force includes:

a) An order to disband or disperse.

b) Show of force/threat of force by AFP forces that is greater than the force threatened by the opposing force.

c) Warning shots aimed to prevent harm to either innocent civilians or the opposing force.

d) Other means of non-deadly force.

4) If graduated show of force does not cause the opposing force to abandon its hostile intent, consider if deadly force is appropriate.

5) Unattended means of force (for example: mines, booby traps, IED/VBIED trip guns) are not authorized.

c. **Check/Choke Points**

1) Mobile check points shall be established only in conjunction with on-going operations/situation, during abnormal times, or when there is a need to arrest a criminal or fugitive from justice. It shall have adequate lighting, an appropriate signboard and military vehicle present.

2) All personnel manning the check points must always be in proper and complete uniform with name cloth and unit patch clearly visible. An officer shall always lead units manning checkpoints.

3) The conduct of searches and arrest in said checkpoints shall be done with civility and with due regard to the innocent civilians and commuters and conducted within the reasonable limits. There shall be no mulcting, extortion or harassment of drivers, passengers, traders, etc.

4) Before a search can be made on a private vehicle, the occupant/s must first be courteously requested if he/they could open the trunk, window or door of the vehicle for an inspection. If the occupant/s refuse/s to cooperate, he/they shall not be forced, coerced or intimidated into cooperation. However, the occupant/s can always be asked to explain or show proof of lawful possession of any dangerous weapon or anything which may have been used or constitute proof in the commission of an offense in the vehicle within the plain view of the personnel manning the checkpoint. Failure to explain or show proof of lawful possession on the part of the occupant/s shall constitute a probable cause on the part of the personnel manning the checkpoint for validly seizing said object and arresting the occupant/s.

5) In the event checkpoints/roadblocks are ignored and the motorists/suspects bump the roadblocks in an attempt to elude arrest or avoid inspectors, the Team Leader shall automatically contact the adjacent units to relay them of the incident, request them to set-up roadblocks if necessary and make pursuit of the fleeing motorist. Warning shot is prohibited as it may confuse the driver/passengers of the vehicles. Megaphone or police siren shall be used instead. Notation of the plate number of the vehicle is a must since the vehicle may elude the pursuit operation.

6) In the event the occupant of the vehicles fire towards the personnel manning the checkpoints, proportionate force shall be employed to avoid tragic and embarrassing situations which could adversely affect the AFP and, in the process erode the people's trust and confidence in the government. Proportionate force to immobilize the vehicle and/or neutralize the suspects' resistance should be applied.

d. Searches and Seizures

1) All searches and seizures shall be conducted in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations concerning searches and seizures.

2) Personal properties not subject of a valid search warrant shall not be seized, except for dangerous weapons or anything which may be used against the person affecting a search as incident to a lawful arrest or as proof of the commission of an offense. When the search is being effected as an incident to a lawful arrest, the premises or surroundings under the immediate control or reach of the person being arrested may be searched and any dangerous weapon or anything which may have been used or constitute proof in the commission of an offense may be seized.

3) No search of a house, room, or any other premises by virtue of a valid search warrant shall be made except in the presence of the lawful occupant thereof or any member of his family or in the absence of the latter, in the presence of two (2) witnesses of sufficient age and discretion residing in the same locality, preferably barangay officials therein.

4) A detailed receipt for the property seized must be given to the lawful occupant of the premises in whose presence the search and seizure were made, or in his absence, must, in the presence of at least two witnesses of sufficient age and discretion residing in the same locality preferably barangay officials therein, be left in the place where the seized property was found.

5) The property seized must be delivered to the judge who issued the warrant within ten (10) days from its date, together with the true inventory thereof duly verified under oath.

e. **Arrest**

1) All arrests shall be effected pursuant to the pertinent laws and regulations concerning arrest.

2) No person shall be arrested except when such arrest is by virtue of a warrant of arrest. However, warrantless arrest may be effected when:

a) In the presence of the AFP personnel making the arrest, the person to be arrested has committed, is actually committing, or is attempting to commit an offense;

b) An offense has just been committed and the AFP personnel making the arrest has probable cause to believe based on personal knowledge of facts and circumstances that the person to be arrested has committed it;

c) The person to be arrested is a prisoner who has escaped from a penal establishment or place where he is serving final judgment or is temporarily confined while his case is pending, or has escaped while being transferred from one confinement to another; and

d) The said arrest of any person without warrant shall be disclosed to a barangay official, or person of known integrity in the community, before he is taken into custody.

3) It shall be the duty of the AFP personnel making the arrest, by virtue of a valid warrant or warrantless arrest, to deliver the arrested person to the nearest police station or jail within the time specified by Article 125 of the Revised Penal Code for the delivery of arrested persons to the judicial authority, i.e. 12, 18 or 36 hours depending on the gravity of the offense. The arrested person shall be turned over together with an affidavit of arrest/apprehension, medical certificate and evidence.

4) In case of arrested insurgents, the availability of arresting AFP personnel and other witnesses shall be ensured for the successful prosecution of the case.

5) No violence nor unnecessary force shall be used in making an arrest, and the person arrested shall not be subjected to any greater restraint than is necessary for his detention.

6) Warrants of arrest shall remain effective until the accused/respondent is arrested or the case against him is terminated. It shall, however, cease to be effective upon the release of the accused on bail.

7) In all instances of arrest, the arresting peace officer or private person shall inform the person to be arrested of his authority, the cause of arrest, and the fact that a warrant has been issued for his arrest, unless the person to be arrested is then engaged in the commission of an offense or is pursued immediately after the commission or after an escape or flees or forcibly resist before the officer or the person making the arrest has the opportunity to inform him, or when the giving of such information will imperil the arrest.

8) In order to make an arrest, the arresting officer, when refused admittance to any building or enclosure after announcing his authority and purpose, may break into said building or enclosure in which the person to be arrested is or is reasonably believed to be.

9) In case of motorized suspects to be arrested, the siren/megaphones shall be used to warn the occupants to park their vehicles and give up peacefully. The arresting officer shall approach the person on foot with proper back-up from his companions. The driver and the other suspects shall be requested to get out of the car with both hands visible to the apprehending officer. If the situation warrants, the apprehended suspects shall be brought to the police station for further investigation, to be supported by the corresponding affidavit of arrest/apprehension executed by arresting elements.

3. After Operations

a. Detention

1) Persons who interfere with the accomplishment of the mission or who use or threaten deadly force against AFP forces, government/NGO personnel, relief material distribution sites, or government/NGO convoys may be detained.

2) Persons who commit criminal acts may likewise be arrested, detained and turned over to the nearest PNP station within the time specified by law for the delivery of detained persons to the judicial authority.

3) Detained personnel will be treated with respect and dignity.

4) Detained personnel will be evacuated to a designated location for turnover to the nearest local PNP post/station.

5) Troops should understand customs and traditions of the populace particularly on the handling of women, children, the disabled and the elderly.

b. Necessary sketches and pictures shall be immediately obtained and investigative requirements accomplished. All policies pertaining to crime scene preservation shall apply.

c. Ensure the recovery and return to the rightful owner the loot and fruits of the crime.

d. A debriefing shall be conducted after every operation to emphasize the lessons learned as part of educating the members of the unit.

e. The necessary report shall be prepared to ensure the successful prosecution of the case against the perpetrators and/or suspects of the crime.

**Annex “G” (ROE Card: General Rules of Engagement) to the AFP
Standing Rules of Engagement**

**ROE CARD
GENERAL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT**

Nothing in these rules of engagement limits your right to take appropriate action to defend yourself and your unit.

1. You have the right to use necessary and proportionate force to defend yourself against attacks or threats of attack.

2. Hostile fire may be returned effectively and promptly to stop a hostile act.

3. When AFP forces are attacked by *unarmed* hostile elements, AFP forces should use the minimum force necessary under the circumstances and proportional to the threat.

4. You may not seize the property of others to accomplish your mission.

5. Detention of civilians is authorized for security reasons or in self-defense. However, these should immediately be turned over to the PNP for the filing of appropriate case.

Remember:

6. The AFP shall uphold the primacy of pursuing, protecting and preserving the peace process.

7. Treat all persons with dignity and respect.

8. Use minimum force to carry out the mission and control the situation.

9. Always be prepared to act in self-defense.

10. All military operations will be conducted in accordance with the laws of war.

11. The use of armed force will be utilized as a measure of last resort only.

12. Nothing in these rules negates or otherwise overrides a commander's obligation to take all necessary and appropriate actions for his unit's self-defense.

13. AFP forces will not fire unless fired upon unless there is clear evidence of hostile intent.

a. **Hostile Intent** - The threat of imminent use of force by an MILF, terrorist group, Lost Command, JI, ASG, CPP/NPA/NDF units or individuals against the Philippine government, AFP forces and allies such as PNP, Coast Guard; and civilians. When the on-scene commander determines, based on convincing evidence, that hostile intent is present, the right exists to use proportional force to deter or neutralize the threat.

b. **Hostile Act** - Includes armed force directly to preclude or impede the missions and/or duties of the AFP or allied forces.

14. Response to hostile fire directly threatening AFP shall be rapid and directed at the source of hostile fire using only the force necessary to eliminate the threat. Use the minimum amount of force necessary to control the situation.

15. You may fire into MILF assembly areas, assault/attack positions in response to hostile fire emanating from the stated area.

16. In the event AFP forces are attacked or threatened by unarmed hostile elements, the responsibility for the protection of AFP forces rests with the AFP commanding officer. The on-scene commander will employ the following measures to overcome the threat, in the following order:

- a. Verbal warning to unarmed hostile elements.
- b. Show of force.
- c. Warning shots fired over the heads of hostile elements.
- d. Other reasonable use of force necessary under the circumstances and proportional to the threat.

17. Use the following guidelines when applying these rules:

- a. Use force only to protect lives.
- b. Use minimum force necessary.

c. Pursuit will not be taken to retaliate; however, in coordination with AHJAG, immediate pursuit may begin and continue for as long as there is an immediate threat to AFP forces. In the absence of GHQ approval, AFP forces should not pursue any hostile force into a government-recognized MILF community/camp.

d. If necessary and proportional, use all available weapons to deter, neutralize, or destroy the threat as required.