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Optomizing USMC Assistance in the Philippines Malaysia and Indonesia

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NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

NAVAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

OPTOMIZING USMC ASSISTANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA

by

Douglas A. Borer (PI)

With Col. Ian C. Rice

Period of Performance

Prepared for: MCSG Ops

POC: Major Jonathan Brown

FY15 MID-YEAR REPORT

BORER W4D03

Background

Current US strategic guidance has articulated a strategic rebalance to Asia to recognize future power trajectories in the region. It is a fact that burgeoning great powers (China and India) will continue to rise and directly exert their interests regionally. These rising regional interests may clash with those of the United States and its key allies (Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand). This study posits that ongoing military-to-military engagement with the Republic of the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia will be instrumental to maintaining US influence in the region. To improve future USMC Security Force Assistance efforts in the region it is critical to examine prior bilateral military assistance activities with these countries (whether by the United States or other countries). This study will focus on the history of security force assistance activities in these countries (e.g. training assistance and the transfer of doctrinal practices) from the colonial periods to the present to identify how these activities influence political behavior in the studied countries. Additionally, systematically examining SFA over time will also aid in identifying best practices and areas for correction. By gaining a better understanding of how SFA activities have affected specific countries of interest, the USMC can better shape regional and country-specific Security Cooperation planning. Additionally, with the national strategic guidance, namely the Strategic Landpower Initiative, pushing for an increase in Security Cooperation activities such as SFA, gaining an understanding of the long-term implications will be important to where and to what extent the United States and its armed forces conduct military-to-military engagement activities.

Process

- A. Understand how prior SFA activities impact the political behavior in countries of strategic interest to the United States.
- B. Identify SFA best practices and lessons learned that can be applied to planning for future country-specific SFA planning and mission execution.
- C. Demonstrate to the USMC this research approach is beneficial in understanding the long-term implications of SFA activities.
- D. Provide USMC students at NPS a service/operationally relevant thesis research resource.

Work in Progress:

- A. MAJ Ben Spera, *The Praetorian Trap: US Efforts to Establish Elite Military Capabilities in West Africa*. This project supports NPS-T16-M053 with a focus on how US-led efforts in North West Africa developed elite commando forces.
- B. MAJ Antione Fernandes/MAJ Travis Taylor, *Measuring the Effectiveness of Special Operations Forces SC Engagements in the 21st Century* examines

interpersonal relationships developed during SFA events as a measure of the effectiveness of country-specific SC plans. This project supports the broad area study in NPS-T16-M053.

- C. MAJ Emmanuel Cabahug (PH)/Major Scott Leuthner. *Revitalizing the Joint and Combined Exchange Training Program: A Crucial Tool in Security Cooperation* supports NPR topic NPS-T16-M051 examines how Joint Combined Exchange Training events can be better synchronized and measured.

D. Faculty Research

March 2015 Dr. Borer and Col Rice conducted a field research trip to the Philippines. Meetings included high ranking US (Embassy, JUSMAG, JSOTF-P, and PACOM elements) and AFP officials (J-5, J-8, SOCOM, CGSC). Extensive notes and observations are being compiled.

Findings and Conclusions

E. Student Theses Completed (2):

THE ROLE OF THREAT IN THE DYNAMICS OF THE PHILIPPINE-UNITED STATES ALLIANCE Randy M. Pascua

The Last Mile: Extending Legitimacy using the Principles of Disaster Relief (Don R. Meador, Oryan J. Lopes)

Recommendations

Pending completion of ongoing research.