

Republic of the Philippines)
Quezon City) SS.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **MARY NANCY P. GADIAN**, Filipino and of legal age, under oath freely and voluntarily depose and state:

1. I became a commissioned officer in the reserve force (Women Auxilliary Corps) of the Philippine Navy in 1991. From 1992 until 1993, I underwent a Fillership Training in the Philippine Navy and I was assigned at the Naval Intelligence and Security Force at the Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. After the termination of my Fillership Training in 1993, I stopped working in the Philippine Navy and got married. In 1995, I went back to the Philippine Navy and applied for call to active duty. I was called to active duty in 1996 and became part of the regular force of the Philippine Navy until April 2009.

2. Prior to and during my stint as an active officer of the Philippine Navy, I received various awards and medals as well as letters of commendation from various commanders and agencies. Among the significant awards and medals that I received are the AFP Cadette of the Year 1989,¹ Philippine Navy Midshipwoman of the Year 1989, Flag Officer in Command Certificate of Merit for graduating number 1 in the Naval Officers Qualification Course "B," Certificate of Merit for graduating number 1 in Political Warfare Course, Certificate of Merit for graduating number 2 in the Naval Intelligence Collection Course, Gawad sa Kaunlaran Award, 11 Military Merit Medals on various occasions, Military Commendation Medals and Basic Awards, and Recognition for my being a member of the Technical Working Group that formulated the AFP CMO Doctrine.

3. In 1996, I was assigned at the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability of the Philippine Navy until 1997. From July 1997 until October 1998, I was in the Naval Reserve Command as Deputy Personnel Officer. I taught at the Naval Education and Training Command, Naval Station San Miguel in San Antonio, Zambales in October 1998 until March 2001. After March 2001, I was assigned as Deputy Operations Officer and Chief of the Operations Center of the Civil Relations Service (CRS) of the AFP at Camp Aguinaldo. I was also Acting Commander of the Special Operations Group of the CRS. **In 2001, I was designated one of the planners of the Balikatan 2002 which was held in Clark Field, Pampanga and of the Balikatan 2002-1 which was held in Mindanao. I was also the Public Affairs Officer of the Balikatan 2002 for the RP side.** As one of the planners, I was involved in the series of

¹ Awarded by then President Corazon C. Aquino.

conferences between Philippine and US military officials where the latter presented the plans and activities of the Balikatan for execution or implementation. The planning conferences involved discussions of the details of the execution or implementation of the plans and activities that the Americans presented. I was also responsible for the administrative, operational and financial requirements of the specific activities involving the public and the media in relation to the Balikatan exercises.

4. Subsequently, I asked to be relieved from the CRS because I could not stand the corruption over Balikatan funds involving Army officers assigned to the CRS. I asked to be transferred back to the Navy. **When I returned to the Navy, I was assigned at the Naval Forces South in Zamboanga. That was in May 2002.** I was the personnel officer, public information officer, unit historian and Commander of the Civil Military Operations Group 6. My involvement with the US military was in planning joint humanitarian projects of the US and Philippine military in Western Mindanao. I was there until June 2003, when I underwent schooling on Political Warfare Course at the Civil Affairs Group at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City until October 2003. After my schooling at the Civil Affairs Group, **I was assigned at the headquarters of the Southern Command in Zamboanga City. I was chief of the Internal and External Division of the Office of the Assistant Chief for Civil Military Operations, Southern Command in Zamboanga City until February 2004.** Again, I was involved in the planning and implementation of humanitarian and infrastructure projects of the US and Philippine military in Western Mindanao.

5. **I was recalled by the Philippine Navy in February 2004. I was assigned at the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, also in Zamboanga City. I was the Public Information Officer of the Command and Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations. I stayed there until January 2005.** In January 2005, I was assigned at the Navy Headquarters at Roxas Boulevard, Manila. I was designated as the Chief of Public Affairs and PsyOps (Psychological Operations) Branch of the Office of the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff for Operations and Training. I was there until September 2005. In September 2005, I was assigned at the Department of National Defense (DND) at Camp Aguinaldo as military assistant to the Defense Intelligence Officer of the DND, until February 2006. From March 2006 until October 2006, I took up my Naval Command and Staff Course at the Naval Education and Training Command in Zambales. **From November 2006 until July 1, 2007, I was in Zamboanga City as Deputy Chief, Civil Military Operations of the Western Mindanao Command. I was designated as Officer-in-Charge of the Civil Military Operations Task Group of the Balikatan 2007.** I was involved in the planning of the Balikatan 2007, and I supervised the civil military operations events involving the Balikatan exercises in the entire Mindanao.

Those included medical and dental missions and infrastructure projects. I was transferred to Camp Aguinaldo in July 2007 when I was placed on floating status.

6. The AFP Western Mindanao Command is based in Camp Basilio Navarro, Calarian, Zamboanga City. It is a unified command of the AFP composed of the army, air force and navy with operations covering Zamboanga, Sulu, Basilan, Taw-Tawi and part of Lanao. Before 2006, the command operating in the entire Mindanao was called the Southern Command based in Camp Navarro.

7. As one of the officers involved in the planning and implementation of the Balikatan exercises and related activities, I had to study the history of the Balikatan.

8. The Balikatan exercises started in 1981. It was held every year since then, for less than a month. Even after the RP-US Military Bases Agreement was terminated in 1991, the Balikatan exercises continued every year, also for less than a month, until 1995. No Balikatan exercises occurred in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 because the Visiting Forces Agreement was then under discussion. The Balikatan exercises resumed in 2000, after the Senate concurrence to the VFA. In 2002, the Balikatan exercises lasted for more seven months. The first Balikatan in 2002 occurred in Luzon for less than a month. The second Balikatan in 2002, called 2002-1 Balikatan Exercises, occurred in Mindanao for more than six months. In 2007, the Balikatan exercises lasted 45 days.² I was not involved in the 2003 to 2006 Balikatan exercises.

9. **After the 2002-1 Balikatan Exercises, the US troops stayed and established a permanent and continuous presence in Southern Mindanao. This is particularly described below.**

10. After the 2002-1 Balikatan Exercises, the United States established a Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP) which is based in Camp Navarro. The JSOFTP is under the US Pacific Command which is based in Hawaii. Prior to the establishment of the JSOFTP, the US had a forward unit with about 500 men in Edwin Andrews Air Base in Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City. Their base is in Okinawa, Japan. In military parlance, a "forward unit" is an advance command unit that is installed to serve as the first line of defense against the enemy. The forward unit serves as the central command's operating arm in the area.

² The 2007 Balikatan was almost cancelled because of the Nicole rape case against four US servicemen and the detention of L/CPL Daniel Smith in the Makati City Jail in December 2006. But after Smith was transferred to the US Embassy (on 29 December 2006), the preparation for the 2007 Balikatan was rushed in the early part of 2007.

11. Prior to their presence in Camp Navarro, the US military built permanent and temporary structures³ in the Edwin Andrews Air Base to house their personnel and equipment (which included tanks and communication equipment) and they also built a small permanent structure near the airstrip of the Air Base. In 2001, they already had open access to the airstrip and they had planes coming in and out almost every other day. Their aircraft (C-12, C-130 and Chinook helicopters) were parked in the base operations center of the Air Base. After they established their continuous presence within Camp Navarro starting in 2002, the US continued to maintain their office and warehouse near the airstrip in Andrews Air Base. This area is fenced and secured by Filipinos and Americans hired by Dyn Corporation, an American private military contractor. Filipinos have no access to this area.

12. The American camp in Camp Navarro consists of two permanent structures, built by the Americans, located near the office of the Headquarters Service Group of the Western Mindanao Command. The two permanent structures are fenced off by barbed wires and guarded by US Marines. Filipinos have no access to those two structures except that on occasions a few Filipino officers are invited inside the bigger structure (but still on a limited access) which has the name of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines.

13. In Camp Malagutay, Barangay Malagutay, Zamboanga City, the training camp of the Philippine Army, the US also has occupied since 2002 an area consisting of about 200 to 300 square meters where they maintain a temporary structure (made of wood and GI sheets with a container van beside it) which they use as an office. This area is also fenced off and generally not accessible to Filipinos. I also visited this area and was able to enter the lounge and conference room. The Americans have access to the training facilities of the Philippine Army.

14. In the Philippine Naval Station in Batu-Bato, Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi, the Americans also have a temporary structure (made of wood and GI sheets) in an area of about 200 square meters, which they maintain continuously and man 365 days a year. They have advance satellite communication equipment and rubber boats inside the structure and land vehicles parked outside within the vicinity. They have approximately seven US navy personnel in the area. I first saw their structure and equipment in 2004. I visited this area many times.

15. The Americans also have a temporary structure (made of plywood and GI sheets with a container van beside it) in the Naval Forces Western Mindanao Command (where I was assigned in 2002-2005) based

³ Permanent structures are those with fixed foundations made of concrete and cannot be easily removed. Structures that are not of this nature are referred to as temporary.

at Lower Calarian inside Camp Navarro. It is in that structure where they keep their rubber boats and naval equipment. The place is maintained continuously by U.S. Navy personnel. The Americans were already operating this structure in 2002.

16. In Busbus, Jolo, Sulu, the Americans have temporary structures in an area of about 1000 square meters inside Camp General Bautista (under the Joint Task Force Comet) which house military personnel of the U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific 365 days a year. I visited this place several times prior to and during the 2007 Balikatan Exercises. The U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific provides intelligence reports to the Joint Task Force Comet, a special task force created by the AFP General Headquarters to address the problems in Sulu. I sat in a couple of situation briefings of the Philippine military where military personnel of the U.S. Special Operations Command gave intelligence reports on the location of the Abu Sayaf and secessionist groups in Mindanao. The military personnel of the U.S. Special Operations Command also conduct training exercises with Filipinos outside the Balikatan Exercises.

17. In all, the US troops stationed inside Camp Navarro and other parts of Mindanao total about 500 at each particular time, on a rotating basis of three months each. These troops are stationed in Mindanao even without any Balikatan exercises going on.

18. The Philippine Government does not monitor the deployment and movement of US troops in Southern Mindanao. As an officer of the Western Mindanao Command, I had no idea of the deployment and movement of the US troops in our area of responsibility. In one incident in 2007, I rode in a helicopter with three US servicemen to go to Sulu. We came from Zamboanga City. On the way to Sulu, we descended to a beach area beside a forested and uninhabited place. I saw a rubber boat approaching from the open sea, with four armed US servicemen. One of the four got out of the boat and rode with us. I did not see any ship around the area. I asked my American counterparts where the men came from. He just responded that the man who joined us is a US Navy Seal.

19. The airstrips and runways of the Zamboanga City International Airport can accommodate military aircrafts bigger than the biggest commercial plane and have been used by the US military for their aircrafts. US warships that dock in Philippine ports are exempt from the payment of docking fees. I do not know of any case where the US paid docking fees.

20. Some members of the Philippine military confirmed to me that US troops are embedded in Philippine troops who are engaged in actual combat in Mindanao.

21. The US is allowed to use intelligence equipment within the Philippine archipelago even outside of the Balikatan exercises. One of these is the *unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)*, a special intelligence aircraft exclusively used by the Americans. In joint military briefings that I attended, military officers from the Philippine and US military often mention the use of UAVs by the Americans to monitor and track down the location of the target enemy (particularly the Abu Sayaf and Muslim secessionist groups). In 2007, a fisherman found parts of an AUV that crashed somewhere in Zamboanga del Sur. A retired army personnel informed me about it. In my capacity as deputy chief of the CMO (Civil Military Operations) of the Western Mindanao Command, I facilitated the recovery of the parts and coordinated for the purpose with the American liaison non-commissioned officer of the Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines. I was informed that they had a problem with transportation and security in going to the area. Until I left in July 2007, I had no more knowledge of what happened to it.

22. The Americans also maintain a *presence along the borders of the Philippine archipelago*. US warships called frigates (frigates are for war and equipped with missiles) operate within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. Frigates are utilized as "fleet in being," which means it is a show of force. I do not know their activities in the area. Once a junior officer in the Philippine Navy (from the operations center of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao based in Zamboanga) called me up and asked me if we were aware of the presence of the US warships along the borders of the Philippines. I said no. I referred him to the operations center in charge of the air, land and sea forces. He called back and said that they did not know either. I referred him to the Western Mindanao Command. He did not call up again. A staff mine also informed me that he and several others went to the aircraft carrier anchored at the border, upon the instructions of superiors, and that they sold Tanduay rum to the American military personnel inside.

23. The continuous presence of the US troops in the country has been justified to us as part of the counter-terrorism measures of the United States and is framed outside of the Balikatan Exercises but within the Visiting Forces Agreement. But many officers of the AFP know that the interest of the United States is in the oil and natural gas exploration going on in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi and Palawan and because Mindanao is a strategic area in relation to Southeast Asia.

24. Outside the Balikatan Exercises, splintered exercises are conducted. Some of these exercises are Combined Readiness at Sea (CARAT), which is conducted annually involving the US and Philippine Navy; Balance Piston, an annual army-to-army exercise; PALAH (*Panglupa, Dagat at Himpapawid*) Exercise, an annual exercise of the

composite units of the US and Philippine military, which last about two weeks each. In addition to these annual exercises, the US military, through the JSOTFP, also does community relations projects (outside of the Balikatan exercises) in different areas of Mindanao, which include medical missions, minor repainting of schools and visitations to orphanages.

25. The Philippine government can easily provide funds for infrastructure projects and the medical and dental missions that are conducted by the US military in Mindanao since the majority of the manpower is provided anyway by the AFP and the US only gives supplies and materials. It appears, however, that to justify the US military presence in Southern Mindanao, they have to engage in infrastructure projects and medical and dental missions.

26. Technology-wise, Filipino soldiers benefit from the Balikatan by learning to use small pieces of military equipment such as sophisticated guns, which the AFP does not have and does not acquire, and night vision goggles. But Filipino soldiers are not allowed to handle the US military's intelligence equipment. Neither is there any capacity building in intelligence gathering for the Philippine military. Filipino soldiers also get free rides in US military aircraft for Medevac and the Black Hawk, which the Philippine military does not have. But it is the US military that primarily benefits from the exchange of techniques, tactics and procedures in the joint exercises.

27. The R & R (called "Liberty" by the Americans) of the US troops is included in the planning of the Balikatan exercises. In the Balikatan exercises where I was involved, the specific areas where they could go were pre-determined. This was not disclosed to the media. In 2002, it was Angeles and the American soldiers could go as far as Subic. In 2002-1, the R & R places were Angeles, Subic and Cebu. The Americans decide where their troops can go and we are only informed about it. The so-called "Public Affairs Guidance" approved by both sides focus on prescribed public behavior for the troops and on cultural sensitivity. Nothing is said about prostitution. They are simply told that they should be aware of the cultural sensitivity of Filipinos. But I witnessed how officers and enlisted personnel of the US military pick up women prostitutes and how women prostitutes go to their hotel rooms. I also received reports of many "sexual activities" of US troops in all sorts of places during their "R & R."

28. Sometime in 2003, an American serviceman (a member of the special forces called "green beret") was killed by a bomb while eating in a restaurant by the road. Before the 2003 incident, US soldiers freely roam around Zamboanga City and patronize prostitution places in the city. After the 2003 incident, soldiers are generally restricted to camp although

some are able to go out to patronize establishments engaged in prostitution. Because of the restrictions, Filipino women prostitutes now go to Camp Navarro to “service” US servicemen. This is common knowledge among Philippine and US military officials. The sexual servicing occurs in different areas in the Camp. Many think that “nababastos ang kampo” because of the prostitution going on within the Camp.

29. Over the years, I saw an increase in the number of establishments in Zamboanga City catering to US servicemen, and many of these are obviously involved in prostitution.

30. I experienced and witnessed the arrogant, high-handed and imperious conduct, behavior and attitude of many US military officers and enlisted personnel as well as their civilian employees towards us Filipinos. Generally, they call us like they are summoning their servants. They often impose on us their wishes and expect us to submit to their commands. On the whole, their assertions of power and authority appear like they rule over us and the country.

MARY NANCY P. GADIAN
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 26th day of August 2009 at Quezon City, Philippines after the affiant exhibited to me her Philippine Passport No. XX1323298 issued in Manila on 4 June 2008 and which expires on 3 June 2013 as competent evidence of her identity.

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