



BARANGAY PEACEKEEPING ACTION TEAM OF SELECTED BARANGAYS OF CABANATUAN CITY, NUEVA ECIJA

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Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra12284>

DOI No: 10.36713/epra12284

ABSTRACT

“For some must watch, while some must sleep, so runs the world away”- William Shakespeare, Hamlet. While you were enjoying your deep sleep, there are somebody tasked to ensure your safety, some of them are called BPATs (Barangay Peace Keeping Action Team). This study aims to determine the level of implementation, effectiveness and degree of problems encountered of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team in the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. it used of descriptive research design. A survey questionnaire was used as a main tool of the study that was validated by experts. Data gathered were tallied, tabulated, treated and interpreted using Likert Scale and Weighted Mean. The study was conducted in 9 selected barangays the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija where 605 respondents participated composed of; 40 PNP Personnel, 188 Barangay Officials and 377 Residents. Results showed that the BPAT were implemented, effective and the problems encountered were fairly serious. In conclusion, Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team of selected barangays in the City of Cabanatuan was mobilized, working and effective. The problems encountered were less serious and manageable. It is then recommended that implementers of the team should continue to perform well and to ensure the effectiveness of the team there is a need to systematize their daily routine activities in implementation of peace and order. Also, implementers of BPAT must strengthen and update the knowledge, skills and attitude of the members through a joint trainings and seminars.

KEYWORDS: *Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team, Level of Implementation, Level of Effectiveness, Problems Encountered*

INTRODUCTION

Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most effective tools available to the United Nation to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multi-dimensional mandates.

United Nation Peacekeepers provide security and the political and peace building support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace. Peacekeeping is flexible and over the past two (2) decades has been deployed in many configurations. There are currently sixteen (16) United Nations peacekeeping operations deployed on the following four (4) continents: Asia, Europe, America, Africa. (UN, n.d.)

Moreover today's multidimensional peacekeeping operations are called upon not only to maintain peace and security, but also to facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law. Success is never guaranteed, because United Nation peacekeeping almost by definition goes to the most physically and politically difficult environments. However we have built up a demonstrable record of success over our sixty (60) years of existence, including winning the (Nobel Peace Prize)

United Nation, (n.d.) added that peacekeeping has always been highly dynamic and has evolved in the face of new challenges. Recently, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a seventeen (17) member high level Independent Panel on United Nation peace operations to make a comprehensive assessment of the state of United Nation peace operations today, and the emerging needs of the future.

Furthermore, peacekeeping is the basic function of the police. And the police visibility is one of the main thrusts of the peacekeeping activity. Without this, it would be very difficult to maintain peace and order. The term Barangay level is used to denote the sphere of operation or application of the system if amicably settling disputes instituted through the creation of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team. The Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team Community justice System functions within the barangay which is the basic conciliation unit under system.

The basic philosophy behind it is that through the amicable settlement of the disputes, the volume of cases filed before the courts and quasi-judicial bodies may be reduced. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

It is along this line that a peacekeeping concept responsive to the unique peace and order condition in the Philippines needed to be crafted. The concept basically calls for. PNP members to lead in the fight against all force of criminality (including insurgency) distinct to their areas of responsibilities, utilizing active citizen involvement and community empowerment (BPAT Manual, 2009)

Various anti-criminality strategies and concepts were adopted by the PNP in its effort to curb and maintain peace and order. However most of the concepts were found to be unsustainable as these were just revised version of crime prevention concepts from other countries and were not suitable to the existing criminality situation in the Philippines. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

Also the Philippine National Police (PNP) recognized the role of Barangay Tanods, Bantay Chief Visionary Officer (CVOs) Barangay auxiliaries; Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and people's organization as force multiple in the fight against criminalities/insurgency/terrorism. These organizations are also valuable partners' of government in the community development. (BPAT Manual, 2009)



With the implementation of the junior-Regional Regatta (JIRR) as provided by Executive order (EO) 546, the PNP will have an active role in international standardization organization (ISO). Complementing the Arm Forces of the Philippines (AFP) strategy of Shape-Clear-Hold-support, the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) as the sectoral equivalent of the CTM will limit if not prevent the access of the insurgents to cleared barangays. In the support phase, the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) will metamorphose into an effective neighborhood security and public safety organization supporting the consolidation and development activities of the civil government. As such, it will perform not only crime prevention function but also implement anti-insurgency, disaster mitigation and community assistance programs. Moreover, this organization credibility of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and promote wide public acceptance of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT). This part of the effort to assimilate the police organization into the community itself, thus epitomizing the adage, "The Community is the Police and the Police is the Community".

Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) shall function solely for community-based activities, info campaign in support to Philippine National Police (PNP) anti-criminality effort, crime prevention on – the – spot conflict resolution. Cases may be referred to the Barangay Justice System as the situation may require. Cases which need police intervention shall be immediately acted upon by the police. Facilities delivery of basic government services through coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU), Proof of Concept (POC).

Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team desk shall be established in the city and municipal police stations or the police community precincts in the urban centers. The present community police relations office (PCR) shall allocated of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team office where the organization regularly holds meetings. Consequently, the Police Community Relation (PCR) functions and the Beat Patrol System will be implemented by the Barangay Peacekeeping and Action Team officers. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

As such the essence of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team Community Justice (Barangay Conciliatory Level) System is the amicable settlements of disputes where in the disputing parties of the barangay are encourage making mutual concession to obtain peaceful resolution of the dispute without formal adjudication thereof. The important settlement is extent to which the parties are willing to compromise their respective claims against each other within the limits impose the law, morals, good customs, public order and public policy. The amicable settlement is in the nature of a contract between the parties. The Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team, which is organized in every barangay, exercise its authority to settle disputes only within the confines of its own barangay. Those issues that cannot be settled amicably despite earnest effort shall be brought before the Lupong Tagapamayapa.

As an added feature of the Philippine National Police medium term development plan launched on October 2002, the Philippine National Police (PNP) Police Community Relation (PCR) master plan and its components "Sambayanan" and "Santinig" have gone a long way as furthering the Community Oriented Policing System Doctrine is concerned. Much has been accomplished and bringing the police closer to the people, forging partnerships which have successfully addressed peace and order concerns.

Pursuant to the authority of the national peace and order council and the PNP, the BPAT is hereby created as the primary operators to conduct Community Oriented Policing System and Public Safety System (COPSPSS). The BPAT will be composed of PNP supervisor, barangay chairman, executive

officer, Barangay tanods. Its mission is to conduct peacekeeping activities in association with the various sectors of the community and ensure their continuous support toward the maintenance of peace and order and safety. Its vision is a peaceful and orderly community organized and responsive to the safety and security needs of its citizens in cooperation with the local police. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

Its functions are A.) Organized and mobilize various sectors of the community in support of the maintenance of peace and order and safety. B.) conduct crisis management, disaster mitigation, search, rescue, and relief operations within the community. C.) strengthen and support the barangay justice system (lupong tagapamayapa). D.) conduct crime prevention and deterrence measures to protect the vulnerable sectors of the community. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

Theoretical Framework

Under the Executive Order (EO) 739 known as Reorganizing of the Peace and Order Council, which makes counter-insurgency no longer the Armed Forces Sole responsibility but makes it part of the main task of local government units and executives. Executive order of the President is that local government officials are also primarily responsible for the anti-insurgency campaign in their area. (<http://www.timawa.net/forum/index.php?topic=15626.0>)

Under section 1 of the Executive Order (EO) 773 otherwise known as the Further Reorganizing the Peace and Order Council the peace and order council is hereby further reorganized on the national, regional, provincial, city and municipal levels of government to be constituted as a.) The chair of the National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) shall be the Secretary of Interior and Local Government (SILG); b.) Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) shall be composed of the region's Provincial Governors, Mayors of the highly Urbanized Cities, the presidents of the Leagues of the Municipalities, the regional counterparts of the departments, offices and agencies; c.) The Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) shall be composed of the provincial counterparts of the departments offices and agencies where the Provincial Governor as the chairman and the Vice Governor as the Vice Chairman and; d.) The City or Municipal Peace and Order Council (CPOC or MPOC) shall be composed of the city or municipal counterparts of the departments, offices and agencies where the Mayor as the Chairman and the Vice Mayor as the Vice Chairman. ([www.lawphil.net/executive/execord/eo2009/eo_773\(10/14/16\)](http://www.lawphil.net/executive/execord/eo2009/eo_773(10/14/16))

Social investigation shall be conducted prior to the recruitment of prospective members of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT). The result of the investigation will be the basis for the configuration of the team since no two barangays are the in terms of peace and order and safety situation. Citizen will then be informed of the formation of the new organization which will cater to the needs of their own community. Included in the information will be the basic knowledge on crime prevention and deterrence and safety precaution during calamities. A very important facet will dwell on the shared responsibilities of each and every member insofar as community peacekeeping is concerned. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

Executive Order (EO) No. 546 authorizes the Philippine National police (PNP) to deputize the barangay tanods as force multipliers in the implementation of the peace and order plan subject to the concurrence of the appropriate local Chief Executive through the Local Peace and Order Council (LPOC). More recently, with Executive Order (EO) 773, it is incumbent upon the Philippine National Police (PNP) to enhance its operational procedure on community safety and



security system in order to address criminality, international standardization organization (ISO) and terrorism problems by establishing Neighborhood Support Group (NSG) through Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) operatives, peace partners, and friends to achieve peace and order throughout the country.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall also conduct training of the BPAT's based on a standard Program of Instruction (POI) which focuses on law enforcement, community organization and public information, disaster mitigation, relief management, and case monitoring. Also gender and juvenile concerns and religious consideration and human rights shall form part of the training module. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

In Letter of Instructions (LOI) 22/09 Bayanihan otherwise known as Barangay Peacekeeping Operations (BPO) mandates the organization of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs), a conglomeration of various sectoral groups, in each barangay nationwide. The Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) serves as the force multipliers and will be under the direct supervision of PNP personnel in close coordination with the Barangay Officials.

There shall be at least one policeman designated for each barangay to be called Pulis Sa Barangay (PSB). The duties and responsibilities of a Pulis Sa Barangay (PSB) are; a.) It emphasized that the designation of PSB is an additional functions/task over and above the personnel's present and responsibilities; b.) As a conduit between the PNP and the community, the PSB shall serve as the focal person and shall monitor the peace and order situation in his/her assigned barangay on a 24-hour basis; c.) All activities shall be undertaken in close coordination with the barangay officials and other key stake holders and support groups for emphasis of active community involvement in peacekeeping efforts; and d.) The PSB shall design his/her own schedule on how to serve the barangay. Such schedule will be reviewed will be reviewed by an immediate supervisor. As far as practicable, the PSB shall visit his/her assigned barangay at least once a week in order to carry out community-based activities such as, but not limited to; a1.) engaging the community and barangay officials by way of dialogues, pulong-pulong, meetings, house-to-house visits, crime prevention and safety awareness lectures, distribution of personal safety leaflets, brochures and other information materials, etc; b1.) Identifying peace and order issues and other public safety concerns such as prevalent crimes, drug problems, health issues, hazard/disaster prone areas, etc; c1.) Providing immediate police assistance in times of emergencies, disasters, etc;.d1) Supervising and/or assisting the BPATs. (Didm.pnp.gov.ph/ letters %2520of %Instructions)(10/14/16)

Under Section 24 of Republic Act (R.A) No. 8551 the Philippine National Police shall (a) enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of lives and properties (b) maintain peace and order and take all necessary steps to ensure public safety (c) investigate and prevent crimes, effect the arrest of criminal offenders, bring offenders to justice and assist in their prosecution (d) exercise the general powers to make arrest, search and seizure in accordance with constitution and pertinent laws (e) detain an arrested person for a period not beyond what is prescribed by law, informing the person so detained of all his rights under the constitution (f) perform such other duties and

exercises all other functions as may provided by law.(www.lawphil.net> ra_8551_1998)

The BPAT Officers in close coordination with LGU and other sectors shall organize Barangay official. Barangay Tanods and other potential force multipliers to compose initial core group of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT).They shall be organized into teams performing their specific functions. The members will be screened and carefully selected from among the existing barangay Officials, barangay tanods and other anti-crime groups with the community. The chief of police and the station commanders of city/municipal stations shall direct their policemen to include in their patrol and visitation of the barangays under in its establishments which are high risk to criminal elements. (BPAT Manual, 2009)

The City of Cabanatuan is situated in the heart of Nueva Ecija, it has 89 barangays, each is headed by a Barangay Captain. It is also one of the cities that are operated by Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT). This study focused on the implementation of Barangay Peacekeeping Action program in the 9 Selected Barangays of the city.

Objectives

This study aims to determine the level of implementation, effectiveness and degree of problems encountered of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team in the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

METHODOLOGY

The study made used of the descriptive research design. A survey questionnaire was used as a main tool of the study that was validated by experts from the Philippine National Police and Barangay Officials of the city. Data gathered were tallied, tabulated, treated and interpreted using Likert Scale and Weighted Mean. The study was conducted in 9 selected barangays the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija. The respondents have a total of 605 composed of 40 PNP Personnel, 188 Barangay Officials and 377 Residents. Safety protocols and ethical standards were observed during the conduct of the study for the integrity and safety of the researchers and participants.

Level of Implementation

It can be gleaned in table 1 that the highest mean is establishment of close working relationship with resident obtained 4.23 interpreted as highly implemented. This shows that the Barangay Officials and the PNP are practicing their community relation.

The lowest mean that according to the citizens is Conduct Police Security Education and Orientation obtained 4.04 interpreted as implemented. This implies that there were limited activities on orientation, seminars and trainings on police security education. Though it is the lowest it doesn't mean that this was not addressed by the PNP, only that there were limited activities because it still falls on implemented.

Thus, the overall weighted mean still falls on implemented, it only implies that the level of implementation of BPATS in the City of Cabanatuan is implemented.



Table 3. Level of Implementation of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team In Selected Barangays in the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija

Indicators	Citizens n=377	PNP Personnel n=40	Barangay Officials n=188	WM	DER
1. Establishment of close working relationship with resident.	4.42	4.03	4.24	4.23	HI
2. Conduct mobile/beat patroller at congested and crime prone areas and vital infrastructures, residence/subdivision, banks, business centers.	4.25	3.98	4.21	4.15	I
3. Establishment of communication link with police.	4.13	4.08	4.05	4.09	I
4. Coordination with peace partners (LGUs, concerned citizen, security agencies and other and other law enforcement units.	4.08	4.18	4.02	4.09	I
5. Proper deployment of BPAT personnel in the different areas like schools, church, bars and other public areas.	3.98	4.18	4.03	4.06	I
6. Conduct meetings and announcements for security purposes.					
7. Organize and train barangay peacekeeping operators on law enforcements, people's organization, responders to calamities and disasters.	4.00	4.10	4.01	4.05	I
8. Conduct Police Security Education and Orientation.	3.96	4.22	4.02	4.07	I
9. Active participation of PNP territorial units in the implementation of peace and order.	3.90	4.18	4.04	4.04	I
10. Community empowerment/development linkage through the deployment of BPATs.	4.10	4.20	4.16	4.14	I
11. Conduct patrol during night time.					
	4.03	4.28	4.02	4.11	I
	4.12	4.43	4.11	4.22	I
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	4.09	4.17	4.08	4.11	I

Legend:

DER= Descriptive Equivalent Rating

HI= Highly Implemented

WM= Weighted mean

I= Implemented

Level of Effectiveness

It can be gleaned in table 2 that the highest mean is active participation of PNP territorial units in the implementation of peace and order obtained 4.17 interpreted as effective. This shows that the PNP is doing their job well in the maintenance of peace and order and that they really take time to participate in the implementation of peace and order.

The lowest mean is proper deployment of BPAT personnel in the different areas like schools, church, bars and other public areas that obtained 4.02 but still interpreted as effective. This means that BPATs visibility is not that visible in

the community, this can be because of limited manpower and sometimes BPATs cannot be easily identified because they were not required to wear their uniform everyday especially the members in the barangay level. In addition to this, some residents doesn't seem to understand that their barangay officials, and barangay tanods are form part of the BPAT.

Nevertheless, the overall mean is 4.10 interpreted as effective. It only shows that BPATs in the City of Cabanatuan are effective.



Table 2. Level of Effectiveness of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team In Selected Barangays in the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija

Indicators	Citizen	PNP	Barangay	WM	DER
	N = 377	Personnel n=40	Officials n=188		
1. Establishment of close working relationship with resident.	4.11	4.05	3.90	4.07	E
2. Conduct mobile/beat patroller at congested and crime prone areas and vital infrastructures, residence/subdivision, banks, business centers.	4.07	4.10	3.90	4.06	E
3. Establishment of communication link with police.	4.05	4.15	3.98	4.06	E
4. Coordination with peace partners (LGUs, concerned citizen, security agencies and other and other law enforcement units.	4.09	4.28	4.00	4.12	E
5. Proper deployment of BPAT personnel in the different areas like schools, church, bars and other public areas.	4.04	4.20	4.09	4.02	E
6. Conduct meetings and announcements for security purposes.	3.93	4.13	4.07	4.04	E
7. Organize and train barangay peacekeeping operators on law enforcements, people's organization, responders to calamities and disasters.	4.02	4.25	4.07	4.11	E
8. Conduct Police Security Education and Orientation.	3.90	4.33	4.10	4.11	E
9. Active participation of PNP territorial units in the implementation of peace and order.	4.07	4.28	4.16	4.17	E
10. Community empowerment/development linkage through the deployment of BPATs.	3.99	4.38	4.12	4.16	E
11. Conduct patrol during night time.	4.10	4.38	3.98	4.15	E
OVERALLWEIGHTED MEAN	4.03	4.23	4.03	4.10	E

Legend:

HE= Highly Effective

E= Effective

Degree of Seriousness

It can be gleaned in table 3 the highest mean was unable to establish BPAT outpost obtained 2.86 interpreted as fairly serious. This result shows that some barangays have no BPAT outpost, true enough that in a certain barangay, there was no visible BPAT outpost because some barangays assumes that their barangay tanod outpost can also serve as the BPAT outpost.

The lowest mean is lack of cooperation between the PNP and BPAT obtained 2.86 interpreted as fairly serious, this

result shows that the PNP and BPATs practice proper cooperation and coordination.

The overall weighted mean is 2.94 interpreted as fairly serious, this result shows that the PNP and BPATs should put their eyes and take actions to their encountered problems as stated.

Though there were encountered problems by the BPATs, it is still manageable because the degree of seriousness of the problem falls only on fairly serious.



Table 3. Degree of seriousness of the problems encountered of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team in Selected Barangays in the City of Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija

Indicators	Citizens n=377	PNP Personnel n=40	Barangay Officials n=188	WM	DER
1. Lack of communication of BPAT to other law enforcement organization such as PNP, NGO, LGU etc.,	2.58	3.88	2.12	2.86	FS
2. Lack of equipments such as radio, whistle and etc.	2.55	4.05	2.14	2.91	FS
3. Undisciplined member of the community especially on nighttime.	2.55	3.98	2.32	2.95	FS
4. Lack of sign boards/Patrolman officer especially on the crime zone areas.	2.58	3.85	2.43	2.95	FS
5. Unable to establish BPAT outpost.					
6. Lack of training and seminars with regards to peace and order in every barangays.	2.79	3.88	2.44	3.04	FS
7. Lack of cooperation between the PNP and BPAT.	2.72	3.90	2.40	3.00	FS
8. Unorganized daily routine activities.	2.62	3.83	2.30	2.92	FS
	2.50	3.98	2.21	2.90	FS
OVERALL WEIGHTED MEAN	2.61	3.92	2.30	2.94	FS

Legend: FS= Fairly Serious

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team of selected barangays in the City of Cabanatuan was mobilized, working and effective. The problems encountered were less serious and manageable. It is then recommended that implementers of the team should continue to perform well and to ensure the effectiveness of the team there is a need to systematize their daily routine activities in implementation of peace and order. Also, implementers of BPAT must strengthen and update the knowledge, skills and attitude of the members through a joint trainings and seminars.

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