



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Philippines and Czech Republic sign Defense Cooperation Agreement



*The Department of National Defense and the Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic sign the Defense Cooperation Agreement between the two countries in Prague, Czech Republic on 29 May 2017.*

The Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic recently signed a historic Defense Cooperation Agreement in Prague on 29 May 2017.

Convinced that bilateral cooperation shall help both countries in the understanding of their respective military issues and consolidate defense capabilities, the two countries signed the agreement at the Czech Ministry of Defense in Prague. Signing on behalf of the Secretary of National Defense of the Philippines was Undersecretary for Defense Policy Ricardo A. David Jr., while Deputy Minister for Defense Policy and Strategy Division Jakub Landovsky signed for the Czech side.



*Undersecretary for Defense Policy Ricardo A. David Jr. and Deputy Minister for Defense Policy and Strategy Division Jakub Landovsky exchange copies of the Defense Cooperation Agreement signed between the Philippines and Czech Republic.*

The cooperation aims to develop Defense and Security Policy, Procurement Policy and Defense Industry, Defense Logistics, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Operations, Compliance to Treaties on Defense, Security and Arms Control, Armed Forces Organization, Structure, Equipment and Personnel Management, Military Training and Education and other activities as may be agreed upon.

The simple ceremony was also witnessed by Undersecretary for Finance and Materiel Raymundo DV Elefante, and his Czech counterpart, Tomas Kuchta, Deputy Minister for Industrial Cooperation and Organizations Management Division. Dr. Juan E. Dayang, the Chargé d'affaires of the Philippine Embassy in Czech Republic, was also present in the occasion.

Defense cooperation is not entirely new between both countries. During World War II, Czech shoe makers from Bata Industry in Manila volunteered to join the USAFFE and fought alongside Filipino and American forces against the Japanese.

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