



PRESS RELEASE

Department of National Defense – Republic of the Philippines

Public Affairs Service, DND Annex Building, Natividad Ave., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City 1110

Website: www.dnd.gov.ph | **E-Mail:** publicaffairs.dnd@gmail.com

Tel: (+632) 982-5679 | 911-6001 to 31 ext. 8229 | **Fax:** (+632) 911-7113

Date Released: 18 August 2017

Releasing Officer: **ASEC RAYMUND JOSE G. QUILOP, CESE**
Assistant Secretary for Assessments and International Affairs

Defense Ministry Level TOR Signed between PH and Thailand



The Philippines and Thailand have always been natural partners bilaterally and through ASEAN-related engagements and the conclusion of the Terms of Reference (TOR) on the Joint Committee on Military Cooperation (JCMC) is another milestone. This was stressed by Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana during the signing of the TOR at the Department of National Defense on 17 August 2017.

Undersecretary of National Defense Cardozo M. Luna and Thai Permanent Secretary for Defense General Chaichan Changmongkol signed the TOR with Secretary Lorenzana and Thailand Ambassador to the Philippines Thanatip Upatising witnessing the signing. The TOR completes the series of arrangements that have been previously inked at the level of the two countries' major services, with that of the Philippine Navy being signed in 2012, Philippine Army in 2015 and Philippine Air Force in 2016.

With the TOR signed, the JCMC convened for the first time. Co-chaired by Philippine Defense Assistant Secretary Raymund Quilop and Thai Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defense General Chatudom Titthasiri, the committee assessed the current state of Philippines-Thailand defense cooperation and identified ways forward for the partnership. With both sides acknowledging the robustness of the two ministries' defense engagements, there was a shared sense to explore cooperation in the areas of research and development

as well as science and technology, in recognition of the increasing need to develop defense capabilities that are indigenous to the two neighbors.

The two delegations also exchanged views on current and emerging security issues such as violent extremism and terrorism, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR). Both sides expressed mutual support for each other's advocacies and initiatives within the ambit of the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus. With Thailand's assurance of continued support to the Philippines' chairmanship of the ADMM this year, the Philippine delegation thanked Thailand for its tangible contributions to the ASEAN defense sector, to include the establishment of an ASEAN Center for Military Medicine.

###