With 45 years of glorious existence, the 15th Strike Wing continuously transforms itself to become Capable, Relevant, and Modern to adapt with the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous security environment. The OV-10 Bronco, SF-260TP, AW-109AH, MD-520MG, and MD-500ER are the current platforms of 15th Strike Wing which are utilized in accomplishing the mission of conducting Tactical Air Operations in support to AFP forces.

This year’s publication showcases the glorious memories of the past, triumphs of the present, and the conceivable future of 15th Strike Wing.
It is with great pride and admiration that I extend my congratulations to the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees of the 15th Strike Wing of the Philippine Air Force on the occasion of their 45th Founding Anniversary.

Over the years, from its beginnings as a provisional unit tasked to conduct counter-insurgency and special warfare operations, to your first air strike in Kandiis, Basilan, to the Sotelo landing during the EDSA People Power Revolution, dubbed the finest hour of the 15th Strike Wing, to your day and night close air support against the ISIS-inspired Maute Group in Marawi and your 24-hour air cover during the 2017 ASEAN SUMMIT, the TROJANS have evolved into an adept and reliable combat-ready force with proven prowess in tactical air operations in defense of our nation’s territories against all forms of aggression, insurgency and secessionism.

Noteworthy and commendable also are your sustained CMO operations to uplift and build close relations and partnerships with the civilian communities and local government units through blood-letting and tree-planting activities, orphanage visits and many more laudable works.

It is for these reasons why your One Defense Team stands with you and is in full support of the Trojan’s FLIGHT PLAN 2028 whose vision is to be a Professional, Competent, and Well-equipped Unit Capable of Conducting Sustained Day and Night Tactical Air Operations in Support of the Integrated Air Operations Concept, founded on core values of Integrity, Service above self, Teamwork, Excellence and Professionalism.

A new base awaits you at Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro. New and advanced military platforms are soon to build your capabilities even more. And so, on your 45th year, my wish for the 15th Strike Wing is to SOAR...SOAR HIGH AND PROUD...keenly focused on your mission...tenacious and resolute in conquering challenges...propelled by a noble spirit of patriotism and service.

You are indeed a new breed, a new generation of airmen and women.

Mabuhay ang 15th Strike Wing!

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY

DELFIN N. LORENZANA
SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, PHILIPPINES
On behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I proudly extend my warm congratulations to the members of 15th Strike Wing as you celebrate your 45th Founding Anniversary.

As your Chief of Staff and the overall Commander of all the forces involved in the Liberation of Marawi, I personally witnessed the valor and professionalism of the men and women of the Trojan’s family during that conflict. Your prompt, accurate and sustained delivery of night and day close air support for our ground troops are truly game changers in fighting the Maute-ISIS terrorists in their well-entrenched strategic locations. Without your significant contributions and sacrifices, the outcome of the war would have been different. Your skill, flexibility and willingness to work with other services were proof that with synergy of jointness, victory for the AFP will not be far behind. Thank you for being with me in preserving peace, freedom and democracy.

Through the years, the Trojans have consistently displayed the best of the Filipino warrior ethos- qualities that define a nation’s fighting force, that is a credible instrument in peace and war. Your anniversary theme, “15th Strike Wing @ 45: Integrating Efforts with the BLUE TEAM at TOP SPEED to Develop Joint Capability for Precision Surface Strike Operations for Peace and Resilient Development” speaks well of your fervent desire to be strong and credible force, able to help create an environment that is conducive to peace and resilient development for our country.

In the midst of the celebrations, I encourage every Officer, Enlisted Personnel and civilian employees of the Wing to maintain back pressure in order to achieve your noble aspirations. May you all remain steadfast with your core values, in the finest tradition of professionalism, excellence and discipline. The Filipino people are counting on us, as defenders of rights and sovereignty, to give our very best to win the peace and a secure future for our nation.

To God be the Glory. Mabuhay ang 15th Strike Wing!

CARLITO G GALVEZ JR
GENERAL, AFP
Over four and a half decades, the firepower of the 15th Strike Wing was seen, heard and felt in several events that challenged national security and stability. As the Trojans have consistently shown in the various crisis points in our country’s history, the most recent of which is in the Battle for Marawi City, you have been the most steadfast, effective, and versatile lethal surface strike unit of the Philippine Air Force. Being a Trojan myself, I am truly proud, as I extend my heartfelt felicitations on your 45th Founding Anniversary as game changers, defenders of freedom and guardians of the Filipino people.

This year’s theme, “15th Strike Wing @ 45: Integrating Efforts with the Blue Team @ Top Speed To Develop Joint Capability for Precision Surface Strike Operations for Peace and Resilient Development” embodies the effort of each and every airmen and women of the Wing to step up inter-service interoperability and readiness to respond to threats while simultaneously integrating advanced platforms, equipment and weapon systems that would find, fix, and finish the enemy. The operationalization of these new equipment, development of new doctrines and tactics while performing in today’s heightened operational tempo can be only achieved through your unflinching commitment to establish a more Capable, Relevant and Modern unit equipped to conduct precision day and night surface strike operations.

May your relentless pursuit for excellence be a driving force towards achieving your objectives despite insurmountable odds. Remain committed, unwavering and passionate to your calling, bearing in mind that the strength of the 15th Strike Wing lies in the heart of every Trojan.

Congratulations on your 45 years of dedicated service. Mabuhay ang Team Trojans, Mabuhay ang Hukbong Himpapawid ng Pilipinas!
As we celebrate the 45th Founding Anniversary of our beloved Unit, we recall the stories of valor that the gallant airmen and women of the 15th Strike Wing have been part of. Throughout our nation's history, and most recently, during the Battle for the Liberation of Marawi, our countrymen witnessed how the Trojans fought hard to defeat those who wished to destroy the safety and well-being of our countrymen. As a Trojan, I never felt prouder. And during this Anniversary, we have a lot to be thankful for as we commemorate the heroism of Trojans past and present, and the bright future ahead.

Indeed, 45 years ago, our Wing was born out of necessity in the height of secessionist and insurgency movements. From the very first airstrike using the North American Aviation T-28 Trojan in Kandiis, Basilan in 21 Feb 1975 to the last one in Patikul, Jolo last 16 Nov 2018, the Trojans are there to provide accurate, lethal, prompt and sustained air power.

Thus, the Trojans were there in every campaign, from Marag Valley campaign in Cagayan and in Lacub, Abra, where the brand new McDonnell Douglas MD-520MG “Defender” had its first airstrike in the North; to Operation Thunderbolt 1, 2, and 3 in Samar, Leyte areas and Negros Occidental’s CHICKS Area [or Candoni, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Cauayan, Kabankalan and Sipalay] former hotbeds of insurgency in the Visayas; during the all-out war in Central Mindanao against the secessionist groups in Oplan Lightning Sword which led to the capture of MILF Camp Abubakar; the first missions against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Jolo; against the MNLF during Cabatangan Siege and Zamboanga Crisis; the BIFF and other peace spoilers in the so-called “SPMS box,” referring to the adjoining towns of Shariff Aguak-Pagatin-Mamasapano and Datu Salibo, Maguindanao.

Most recently, the full strength of the Wing’s capability, especially on night fighting and ISR was brought to bear against the Maute-ISIS terrorist group in Butig and Piagapo, Lanao del Sur and the final battle in the City of Marawi.

I may not have mentioned all as the list that spans time, geography, and continuum of conflict could go on and on. But one thing is common among all these air campaigns is the tenacity, bravery, professionalism and the “can do” attitude of every Trojan. We made our presence felt in every mission, battle, and campaign against the different enemies of the state. We are present in numerous critical instances, such as the flight of Sikorkys during the EDSA Revolution, when our young nation needed the much-needed firepower. As we can see, the 15th Strike Wing has been “game changers” even before Marawi. As the sharp end of the AFP spear, our mere presence in the battlefield often turns the tide in favor of the victor.

Today we remember and immortalize the heroism of Trojans past and present, whose actions best exemplified the loyalty of a Filipino soldier. To enjoy the company and stories in the Balik Sangley 2018 and to celebrate with our heroes who have been part of the colorful and glorious history of this proud and gallant Wing.

Guided by the InSTEP Core Values and the inspiration of our Commanding General for Galing, Tapang at Malasakit- galing sa trabaho, tapang sa paghardap sa mga kalaban at malasakit sa mga taong nangangailangan, let us continue to be inspired by the high regard of our fellow soldiers of the Filipino people and the accolade of our fellow airmen such as the CG, PAF Streamer Award for CY 2018. While this recognition has been elusive for so many years, our sacrifices and hardship did not go unnoticed, and we finally received again, the prestigious award last PAF Anniversary.

However, this was not achieved just by flying combat sorties alone. This honor was achieved through the collective effort of every Trojan. For like a spear that is kept sharp, every Trojan must perform his job with excellence, professionalism and discipline. Thus, let us also recognize our unsung heroes- our maintenance and support personnel that kept the airworthiness of our air assets to the highest standards; our security forces who must
guard the base perimeter here in MDAAB 24/7 with utmost diligence and vigilance; our the Air Traffic Controllers who keep the aerodrome safe for air operations, now even more challenging with general aviation operations. The drivers and mechanics of our transport squadron, our carpenters’ and plumbers’ to keep the facilities of the base safe for working and living; the tireless band members of our Wing make every celebration lively and every ceremony solemn. The care of our health care providers— the doctors, dentists, nurses, physical therapists, medical technicians, and pharmacists, for keeping us fit to perform our jobs. Let us also not forget the selfless services cargadores who maintain the cleanliness of our workplaces deserve the same recognition.

As we celebrate the 45th Founding Anniversary of the Wing with the theme “15th Strike Wing@45: Integrating Efforts with BLUE TEAM at TOP SPEED, let us step up our efforts with renewed vigor to develop joint capability for precision surface strike operations for peace and resilient development.” I urge every Trojan to make the tip of the spear even sharper, to fly every mission with our enhanced safety culture, and by disrupting previous paradigms in order to come up with “superior strategies against inferior resources.”

Undeniably, we have towering tasks and need every Trojan’s sincere commitment to achieve our goals and aspirations. We will transform and be adaptive to the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environment of the 21st century. Our path is clearer than ever before.

With the Wing’s drive towards a more capable, relevant and modern, we must constantly prepare ourselves to transition into the new horizon, with the arrival of new weapons platforms next year, which will bring the firepower and capabilities of the Wing to next level. Next year, we will witness the arrival of the A-29 Super Tucano, AH-1S Cobra from Jordan, and the first batch of new attack helicopters. These are much-needed upgrades to meet the challenges of the rapidly evolving threats and dynamic types of warfare.

In addition, brick by brick, the new home of the Trojans in Mindanao is rising. We look forward to finally transferring to a new master-planned Air Force base in Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro City. This relocation is expected to further spur security and economic progress in the land of promise as the Trojans’ Lair becomes a nexus of peace and development.

Thus, we dedicate the accomplishments of the Brave, Loyal, United and Exemplary airmen of the 15th Strike Wing and to bring glory to the Lord Almighty everything that we do and thank Him for all the numerous blessings and guidance He has bestowed upon us.

Happy 45th founding anniversary to us Trojans! Mabuhay ang Ika-labing Limang Panagupang Bagwis! Mabuhay ang Hukbong Himpapawid ng Pilipinas at mabuhay tayong lahat!
The 15th Strike Wing was organized and activated as a provisional unit on 26 November 1973, at Sangley Point, Cavite City, with a mission statement: To conduct counter-insurgency and special warfare operations. The appointed Acting Wing Commander then was COL EMERITO P SURIO PAF (GSC) with COL POMPEYO P VASQUEZ PAF (GSC) as the Deputy Commander, and a complement of two officers and ten airmen. The humble beginning of 15th Strike Wing and its experiences in history brought it to the glory that it is known for today.

The deployment and first air strike of the Wing was then subsequently followed by the deployment of three SF-260W of the 17th Attack Squadron with the command of LTCOL LANA in Francisco Bangoy Airport, Davao City on 17 March 1975. The 17th AS’s first combat mission was recorded on 15 April 1975. The new SF-260W platform was piloted by LTC LANA and LT ABADAY in Balabagan, Sapakan and Reina Regente in Cotabato.

February 1975 marks a historic milestone for the 15th Strike Wing. Its capability with the T-34 Mentor was boosted with the arrival of the Italian-made, locally assembled SIAI Marchetti SF-260 Warrior aircraft. On the same month, new breed of combat ready pilots arise from the 16AS, COL EPIFANIO REYMUNDO, LTC SANTIAGO PITPITAN JR and MAJ RODOLFO ORTIZ and deployed at Edwin Andrews Air Base, Zamboanga City to fly the T-28D aircraft. On 21 February 1975, the first air strike in the Wing’s history was recorded in Kandiis, Basilan.
On 24 February, the third day of the mutiny and protest at EDSA, a flight of S-76 gunships led by the 15th Strike Wing Commander, COL ANTONIO SOTELO joined forces with the People Power forces and landed at Camp Crame. COL SOTELO then described the situation in the Armed Forces at that time was confusing and unstable, with no clear leader taking charge. The bold decision that the 15th Strike Wing made on that historic episode set the tone and direction to the AFP to have a resolute action, and to take sides against the Marcos regime. It was arguably the turning point of the EDSA Revolution – a game changer. Later that day, in a press conference, then Minister Enrile and GEN RAMOS cited in particular the defection of the 15th Strike Wing. On the same day, CPT WILFREDO EVANGELISTA was sent by the 15th Strike Wing to fire warning shots at the Malacañang Palace to show that the rebels had established control of the air and can hit its occupants at will. Later on, a flight composed of three Sikorsky attack helicopters led by MAJ CHARLES HOTCHKISS destroyed five UH-1H helicopters at Villamor Air Base which were being prepared to ferry an Airborne Commando Team tasked to attack Camp Crame and destroy the S-76 gunships.

On 29 March 1976, the 25th Attack Squadron was activated under the command of LTC TERESO ISLETA. A new batch of pilots were then assigned to the squadron to undergo Combat Crew Training (CCT) for the AT-28Ds aircraft from Udorn Air Force Base in Thailand. The squadron was first deployed to Puerto Princesa, Palawan under the Western Command making their first historic landing at Kalayaan Island with one C-47 and three T-28D on 22 April 1976.
A more serious attempt to overthrow the Aquino government happened on 28 August 1987, this time led by the Reform Armed Forces Movement (RAM) under COL HONASAN. At its height, the rebels took over Camp Olivas in Pampanga. They also attacked the Malacañang Palace and were able to temporarily occupy the General Headquarters building at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo. RAM forces likewise seized the PAF Headquarters in Villamor Air Base, trapping LTGEN ANTONIO SOTELO, the then Commanding General, PAF at the third floor of the building. Fortunately, he was able to make good of his escape and reestablish command at the Fort Bonifacio parade grounds.

LTGEN SOTELO directed the 15th Strike Wing to fly the reconnaissance and perform air strikes against RAM forces. Two AT-28Ds piloted by CPT BERNABE GARCIA and CPT REYMUNDO ORTIZO, CPT NEAL GACRAMA and CPT EDUARDO DONATO took-off from Sangley Point, to reconnoiter and identify rebel positions. The flight proceeded to Balara Relay station, and fired machineguns at the rebels occupying TV 13 and forced them to surrender. Next, the Tora-Tora element was ordered to proceed to Camp Aguinaldo where the rebels set the General Headquarters building on fire. The T-28s delivered accurate rocket hits against the rebels occupying the building and adjoining structures, resulting to the demoralization and surrender. However, RAM leader COL HONASAN, escaped using a UH-1H piloted by rebel pilots.

The next day, 29 August, CPT GARCIA and CPT ORTIZO flew a persuasion flight in the periphery of the national capital. The aircraft encountered engine trouble but the pilots safely ditched the aircraft on the marshlands of Obando, Bulacan. This unfortunate episode, however, was anti-climactic as the Tora-Toras of the 15th Strike Wing kept the torch of the country’s fledgling democracy burning.

Amidst the challenge of protecting the integrity of the organization and the national interest, the 15th Strike Wing stood firmly and followed the rightful chain of command.
ARRIVAL OF THE OV-10 BRONCO

The arrival of the OV-10 Broncos marked another milestone in the Wing’s history as it proved to be a more versatile Counter Insurgency (COIN) aircraft than its predecessor, the AT-28D Tora-Tora, because of its bigger payload and longer loiter time. Through the Foreign Military Sales program, the US Government agreed to sell 24 OV-10A Bronco to the Philippine Air Force. The first batch of these aircraft arrived in 13 Nov 1991.

FIRST AND LAST IN MARAG VALLEY

Looking back, this unit has been the catalyst in many significant stories in our countries’ colorful history. The T-28s of this Unit became known as Tora-Toras because of the many battles they were able to win for our ground troops against both the communist terrorists and Muslim separatists in the south. Countless airstrikes, persuasion flights and patrols gave the government a great advantage over the enemy. Because of these achievements, the Tora-Toras were able to provide service to the country for 18 years. The most notable among its success as an aircraft of this Wing was in the year of its decommissioning in 1992 during the heavy operations in Marag Valley against the communist rebels. With its relentless and effective attacks, rebels were greatly reduced in numbers to include even their supporters. It was in 09 April 1992 when the last hurrah and a rite of passage of some sort, for the mighty T-28s, also became the baptism of fire for the OV-10A Bronco in an airstrike in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.
ARRIVAL OF THE MD-520MG DEFENDERS

With the increasing threats of insurgency, the Armed Forces of the Philippines needed newer and more agile weapons platforms that can augment with the current air assets that are performing Internal Security Operations missions. Thus, the MD-520MG were acquired in 1990. This platform also served as a replacement for the aging S-76A Sikorsky, which were then transferred to 505th Search and Rescue Group and 250th Presidential Airlift Wing. The Defenders first saw action and made their first airstrike in Lacub, Abra on 19 February 1991, supporting ground troops against heavily armed communist rebels.

15TH STRIKE WING OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

The T-28D had been flying over the West Philippine Sea, performing routine flights from Antonio Bautista Air Base (ABAB) to Pag-asa Island. Even though limited with navigational instruments, the Tora-Toras performed limited Territorial Defense up until its retirement in 1992. In 1995, news about the incursions in Mischief Reef, one of the islands in the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), broke out and the newly acquired OV-10s of 15th Strike Wing were tasked to perform Maritime Patrols over West Philippine Sea.
In June 2001, tons of bombs were dropped and dozens of rockets were launched by 15SW aircraft during an operation to capture Camp Ednu Harris. Later, this Wing was an integral part of the joint operations with the Philippine Marines resulting to the downfall of that terrorist stronghold and the capture of the brother of then ASG Spokeman Abu Sabaya in Jolo on 08 September.

On February 2002, successful air strike operations were conducted against heavily armed Abu Sayaf members and the Misuari Renegade Group (MRG) at the vicinity of Mt Tumagis, Jolo, Sulu in support of the PA 104th Infantry Brigade under the Joint Task Force “Comet”. For their heroic acts in the face of danger and above and beyond the call of duty, six OV-10 pilots were aptly recognized. This campaign also marked the baptism of fire of the newly configured light attack aircraft SF-260TP Warrior.

On July 2003, the Wing employed two OV-10s and 3 MD-520MGs to hunt Ghadaffy Janjalani, one of ASG’s notorious local commanders. Janjalani gathered around 71 terrorists in Butril area which prompted an air attack. Accordingly, the Wing deployed its air assets to conduct bomb runs and strafing upon the suspected area of the terror group leader. Although Janjalani survived, his forces broke and fled with the army hard on their heels.
The triumph and success of the AFP were again displayed during the Zamboanga Siege. On 09 September 2013, Ustadz Habier Malik, Nur Misuari’s top commander, led a faction of his Moro National Liberation Front in seizing and occupying four barangays – Rio Hondo, Sta Barbara, Santa Catalina and Talon-Talon and attempting to raise the flag of the self-proclaimed Bangsamoro Republic at Zamboanga City Hall. They held civilian hostages and used them as human shields.

The weapons platforms of 15th Strike Wing played crucial role in helping the ground troops regain control of the city. The several elements of MD-520MGs were deployed in the Advance Command Post Zamboanga that provided the critical firepower support for the operating ground troops. Moreover, two elements of SF-260TP aircraft were also deployed in Zamboanga and performed numerous airstrikes against the enemy fortifications.

It was very evident that the firepower support provided by these two aircraft of the Wing shortened the siege and greatly helped the surface forces recapture the city. Further loss of lives of innocent people and fellow soldiers was minimized.

OV-10 Broncos lined up in Edwin Andrews Air Base

OPLAN Lightning Sword is the AFP’s plan to employ its full might to defeat the renegade members of Moro Islamic Liberation Front with the two AFP Unified Commands in Mindanao spearheading the offensive. This operation is in response to hostile moves of MILF breakaway groups led by Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo in Lanao del Norte; Aleem Solaiman Pangalian in Lanao del Sur; and Ameril Umbra Kato in Maguindanao. The operation against these groups commenced on 10 August 2008.

The role of the 15th Strike Wing’s aircraft during the AFP’s Oplan Lightning Sword was undeniably vital for its success. Ultimately, the firepower support provided was essential in the defeat of the groups of Umbra Kato and Commander Bravo and liberated the Northern and Central Mindanao against lawless elements of the MILF breakaway groups.

AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST THE BIFF

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The combined firepower provided by the three weapons platforms of the Wing – OV-10, SF-260TP and MD-520MG aircraft, proved to be critical in hastening the military operations against the armed insurgents. These weapons platforms were also utilized in performing reconnaissance and surveillance missions to find and identify possible enemy encampments. Once identified, several airstrikes were performed to flush the enemies out from the camp.

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ZAMBOANGA SIEGE

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The most recent air campaign accomplishment of the 15th Strike Wing was with the Marawi City Siege. The Crisis stretched from 23 May to 06 October 2017. The Wing played a vital role in the reclamation of the city and the conclusion of the campaign as we know it. With the Wing’s contribution, it was regarded as the “game-changer” of the campaign. Its air assets provided expedient air support to government troops and brought down targets which were critical deciding events of the said campaign.

The air power provided by the 15SW proved to be a decisive factor in defeating the enemy. The bombs and rockets completely destroyed enemy positions, to include enemy snipers in advantageous locations that slowed down the advancing government forces. The capabilities of the AW-109AH in night fighting have greatly contributed to the success of the surgical military operations that aims to clear the enemy one building at a time. Although non-precision airmunitions were utilized, the pilots through their airmanship and intensive training have skillfully engaged targets with pinpoint accuracy as attested to by the ground troops. Moreover, the OV-10 also employed Precision Guided Munitions against high-value targets for increased precision and accuracy.

As a result of the relentless air operations in Marawi, a total of 3,704 flying hours in 2,008 sorties of Close Air Support missions were performed from 23 May to 06 October 2017, delivering a combination of bombs, rockets and guns to designated targets on the ground. The relentless air campaign destroyed critical enemy installations which gained vantage points for the government forces.
The 15th Strike Wing was once again adjudged as the best Tactical Wing after being awarded with the Commanding General, Philippine Air Force Streamer Award - Tactical Wing Category 2018. The award was received by the Wing Commander, 15th Strike Wing BGEN AUGUSTO D DELA PEÑA AFP during the Philippine Air Force 71st Founding Anniversary held at the Villamor Air Base, Pasay City with His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as the Guest of Honor. The said award was first received by the Wing in 1989. It was followed in 1997 and since then, the Wing has received this recognition for thirteen consecutive years. This award greatly affirms the commendable accomplishments and notable performance of the Wing in the field of Tactical Air Operations which was greatly felt during the Liberation of Marawi.

The Trojans also took pride in winning the CG, PAF Streamer Award for Tactical Squadron Category 2018. The 18th Attack Squadron, known as the Falcons, first won the award in 1991 and has received the same award eight times. Flying the AW-109AH at night that gave them the call sign "Night Hawk", the 18th Attack Squadron continuously prove its capability in performing effective and efficient non-stop day and night combat air operations.

The 591st Supply Squadron also won the CG, PAF Streamer Award for Service Support Squadron Category 2018. Despite the changes in its organizational set-up, the 591SS was able to accomplish its mission of providing logistical support to all Units of the Wing with high level of efficiency. The efficient and systematic supply management of this Unit played a vital role towards the over-all accomplishment of the Wing’s mission.

With these achievements, every Trojan takes pride and honor on being part of an organization that is geared towards being a modern, capable and relevant Tactical Unit of the BLUE TEAM at TOP SPEED for Peace and Resilient Development.
# Flight Operations AY 2018

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Keeping Relevance, Achieving Excellence

Capability for precision surface strike operations for peace and resilient development.
TROJANS, YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER

BALIKATAN 2018
Eagles with A-10 pilots

TACTICAL AIR OPNS WORKSHOP 2018
with Royal Australian Air Force

DISASTER RESPONSE
501 civilians rescued

AIR-TO-GROUND INTEGRATION MTT
with USAF at CERAB

COASTAL CLEAN-UP
580 sacks collected

BLOOD LETTING
78,800cc of blood

OPLAN TULI
469 procedures

INFO DRIVE
708 visitors entertained

15TH STRIKE WING @ 45: INTEGRATING EFFORTS WITH THE BLUE TEAM TO DEVELOP JOINT

THE TROJANS’ VOICE
DAGIT-PA 2018
Inter-operability Exercise with PN & PA

INTEGRATED AIR OPN SYSTEM SIM-EX
view of Sim-Ex at AFCOC

MANGROVE PLANTING
1200 mangrove propagules planted

KAMANDAG 2-18
with Phil Marines & USMC

SOCIO CULTURAL
Feast of La Naval 2018

ORPHANAGE OUTREACH
brought joy to 160 orphans

MEDCAP MISSIONS
5,985 patients

SOCIO CULTURAL
Alay Lakad 2018
The field of aviation is fast moving and getting more complex by the day. As the leading edge of the Philippine Air Force’s (PAF) might, the 15th Strike Wing’s weapons platform must constantly upgrade its capability for the Unit to remain Credible, Relevant and Modern. It cannot remain static, for the environment we operate to do not remain static and post new threats.

In order to meet the strategic focus of the Wing, capability upgrade programs are being undertaken. Enhancements of air power capability through acquisition of new platforms including its supporting systems and weapons upgrades as well as innovation of current aircraft are in the pipeline.

Presently, the SF-260TP Warrior and OV-10 Bronco are equipped with analog instruments. One of the maintenance issues for both aircraft is the scarcity of spares in the market. The aviation industry currently favored the electronic and glass instruments. Having said that, the transformation of both aircraft for a more accurate and safer system through replacement of its existing instrument to a digital and electronic equipment (Glass Cockpit) is being push by the Wing.

The 460th Aircraft Maintenance Group (460AMG) has been bold in responding to the requirements of the Wing when it comes to capability enhancement and upkeep of its air assets. Following are the Research and Development (R&D) Projects of 463rd Avionics Armaments Maintenance Squadron (463AAMS)

**COMPLETED SRDP PROJECTS**

- Reinforcement of Sixteen (16) Front RMP Fairing
- Fabrication of Thirty (30) Pcs Impulse Stud
- Fabrication of Four (4) Linear Actuator Pawl
- Fabrication of Four (4) SF-260TP Trigger Guard
- Prototype Modified M60 Machinegun Pod
- Fabrication of OV-10 Mock-Up
- Fabrication of FLIR Stand, Installer and Remover
- Portable and Handy Multi-Tester for MD-520MG Avionics System

**PORTABLE MULTI-TESTER**
FLIR INSTALLER

RMP FAIRING

LINEAR ACTUATOR PAWL

IMPULSE STUD

TRIGGER GUARD

M60 MACHINEGUN POD FOR SF-260TP

OV-10 COCKPIT MOCK-UP

CAPABILITY FOR PRECISION SURFACE STRIKE OPERATIONS FOR PEACE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT
The ability to control the air is the sine qua non for successful joint operations in all domains of military operations. For more than four decades we have witnessed how the 15th Strike Wing valiantly performed its mandate as the frontline force of the Philippine Air Force in counterinsurgency operations. In the same manner, we have seen the evolution of warfare and battle environment from the rigid jungle to a more complex urban terrain, as manifested in the recent Marawi conflict, that challenged our capability in conducting missions in support to operating friendly ground forces. This changing landscape of battlefield and evolving characteristics of the enemy are inevitable realities that demand the development of our current close air support capabilities and requires us to elevate the way we perform our mission in order to stay ahead of our evolving adversaries.

Anchored with the PAF Flight Plan 2028, the PAF further developed a more comprehensive strategy called the Plan Velocity. It is the primary medium-term to long-term transformation plan of the PAF that provides the necessary overarching direction to all existing plans of the organization. Under this strategy, the 15SW owns one of 16 Strategic Initiatives that translates to the establishment of Surface Strike System. The initiative aims to achieve a more effective surface strike capability that can be fully realized within the second horizon of the PAF Flight Plan. Hence,
the Wing came up with a holistic approach for an accurate, prompt, sustained and interoperable surface strike capability. This entails capability development on training of personnel, establishing strategic basing, and developing necessary doctrines that will transform the Unit into a Capable, Relevant, and Modern arm of the PAF in conducting surface strike operations.

Counterinsurgency operations will persist in the foreseeable future and in every situation our strike assets will be called to contribute to its favorable result but aside from this low threat environment conflicts the emergence of other future conflicts than can take place in highly contested environments could not be discounted. As the primary force for close air support missions a full spectrum approach to surface strike must be developed in order for our air strike assets to optimally operate with ground forces across all levels of conflict and demonstrate a more effective air power capability.
The countdown before the Trojans start packing their things to bid farewell to their birthplace and home for 45 years and start a new flight towards the northernmost tip of the southernmost island of the archipelago has started.

The transfer which started with the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered by Department of Transportation and Communication-Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (DOTC-CAAP) and Department of National Defense – Philippine Air Force (DND-PAF) known as the “General Aviation Transfer MOA of 2012”, has the primary purpose of answering the air traffic congestion problem at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) by utilizing the Sangley Point Cavite City as CAAP’s general aviation’s operations hub. This paved way to the tripartite MOA undertaken by the same parties last 20 February 2016 highlighting the land swapping of DND-PAF owned 70.737 hectares at Major Danilo Atienza Air Base to the 113.1054 hectares CAAP-owned land at Lumbia Cagayan de Oro and functional replication of all affected DND-PAF facilities. The agreement also provided an initial funding of P1.01B from the PAF General Appropriations Act for FY 2015 and P1.0B fund transferred from DOTC.

Roughly two years after the signing of MOA, a ground breaking ceremony was held on 01 February 2017, which signalled the start of official transfer of 15th Strike Wing to Lumbia. Intensive stakeholder engagements followed to address underlying issues affecting the functional replication of the facilities. A Master Development Plan (MDP) for Lumbia as main operating base of 15th Strike Wing was crafted. This MDP was painstakingly designed to be responsive to the current and future requirements of Trojans and as well as to serve as template to future PAF Airbases, aligned to its vision of becoming a “more competent and credible Air Force responsive to national security and development”.

On 06 February 2018, the construction of facilities under Phase 1 started. This includes the site preparation, three (3) units of two storey Bachelor Officer’s quarters and three (3) units of three (3) storey Enlisted Personnel Quarters. The construction of the remaining buildings will be in
full swing by 2019 followed by the implementation of projects under Phase II which is currently under bidding. The repair of runway and construction of new hangar is expected to be completed by last quarter of 2018 and before the end of the 1st quarter of 2019 respectively.

This significant development is also a giant leap for the 15th Strike Wing towards realization of its Flight Plan, to be capable, modern and relevant force. The new home of the Trojans is strategically located intensifying the combat effectiveness of the Wing due to its proximity to the areas of focused military operations. The relocation of 15th Strike Wing to Cagayan de Oro will further spur security and economic progress to the “Land of Promise” as it will become the nexus of peace and development.

As the Trojans transfer to Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro, two of its missions will be accomplished; enabler of national development and catalyst of peace and security. They will be living behind the comforts of Sangley Point and open heartedly embrace the changes for the betterment of the country and themselves. Thus, the cliché “progress is impossible without change”.

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Professor Gunningham of Australian National University, who wrote a working paper entitled “Culture Eats System for Breakfast”, points out that management style and motivation are more important in shaping environmental performance than the system itself.

Accordingly, Safety Culture is best described as “how we behave, when no one is watching”. In its essence, it is up to the people how they believe about the importance of Safety. No matter how the organization provides higher margins of safety, when forced by circumstances like time pressure and fatigue, human performance is affected. In this case, people tried to seek the easier path, which may sometimes lead to serious incidents or accidents in the workplace.

Instilled with the PAF Core Values of Integrity, Service, Excellence and Professionalism (InSTEP), integrates everything and have a direct impact to positive safety culture. In 15th Strike Wing, the Trojans, strict adherence to procedures when flying is no different to ensuring the same precautions when driving motorcycles such as wearing Personal Protective Equipment and observing traffic regulations. This implies that every Trojan is prepared to take a more challenging task even if no one is watching.

Safety Culture have been around for a long time. It needs effort to develop and maintain a positive safety culture, and if necessary, enhancing this culture entails discipline. As the new horizon takes place, workloads and task became simpler but more complex. Each personnel is prepared with the right knowledge – to make right decisions discernment and right methods, and safe attitude by simply following safety rules. It may be a long and difficult process, but by putting this together and simply get better and improve. As the old adage, “practice always makes it perfect”.

Concisely, the Wing always takes care for the well-being of its personnel. Safety has always been a top priority to carry-our sustainable operational capability.

Crew Chief and QAI inspecting the aircraft thoroughly before flight
UNIT AWARDS

590th AIR BASE GROUP
Group of the Year 2018

20th ATTACK SQUADRON
Tactical Squadron of the Year 2018

591st SUPPLY SQUADRON
Service Support Squadron of the Year 2018

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

MAJ MICHAEL JOHN E SAMBRANO O–13896 PAF
Rated Officer of the Year 2018

1LT MAR ANTONIO L BARRETTO O–143189 PAF
Non-Rated Officer of the Year 2018

TSG Romel D Andiono 838670 PAF
Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year 2018

Sgt Aaron L Manalo 867265 PAF
Airman of the Year 2018

Mrs Meyith G. Resolado CE
Civilian Employee of the Year 2018