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NHQ-PCG/CG-3

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STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE NUMBER 13-25

CONDUCT OF PRE-DEPARTURE BRIEFING TO PCG VESSELS DEPLOYED IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

1. AUTHORITY

- A. National Security Policy;
- B. National Security Strategy 2024;
- C. Republic Act No. 9993, entitled "Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations dated 27 July 2009
- D. Republic Act No. 12065, entitled "Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act" dated 07 November 2024
- E. Republic Act No. 12064, entitled "Philippine Maritime Zone Acts" dated 07 November 2024; and
- F. 1987 Philippine Constitution

2. REFERENCES

- A. PCG Concept of Operations Manual 2025;
- B. PCG Rules on the Use of Force;
- C. PCG IDMS Manual 2025; and
- D. PCG Maritime Security Manual

3. BACKGROUND

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), as the primary maritime law enforcement agency of the nation, operates within a dynamic maritime domain shaped by

geographic, socio-economic and geopolitical realities. With over 36,000 kilometers of coastline and a vast exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the PCG carries the critical mandate of safeguarding maritime safety, security and environmental protection in an archipelagic setting.

This operating environment is marked by persistent challenges and emerging threats that require strategic foresight, high levels of operational readiness and seamless inter-unit coordination. Consistent with national policy directives, the PCG shall continue the deployment of its vessels and personnel to maritime areas under Philippine jurisdiction to assert sovereign rights, address overlapping claims and manage the presence of foreign state actors.

At the tactical level, clear and deliberate guidance must be provided to Commanding Officers to ensure that operations in politically sensitive and high-tension areas remain disciplined, calibrated and responsive – preventing missteps that could inadvertently escalate tensions or lead to undesirable political consequences.

4. PURPOSE

This SOP prescribes the policies and procedures for the conduct of Pre-Departure Briefings (PDB) for all PCG vessels to be deployed to the West Philippine Sea and other designated maritime zones. It aims to ensure that mission objectives, operational directives and support requirements are clearly communicated to all personnel prior to departure. This PDB is intended to enhance operational readiness, minimize risks in high-tension areas, and promote coordinated, disciplined and calibrated actions consistent with national policies and PCG mandates.

5. SCOPE

This SOP applies to all PCG vessels, units and personnel tasked to conduct sovereignty patrols, maritime security operations, law enforcement and other official missions in the West Philippine Sea and other high-risk or sensitive maritime zones.

6. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. **Readiness** – the level of preparedness for personnel and materiel to respond to the tasks described in a scenario or to an operation being considered.
- B. **Operational Readiness** – the capability of a Unit/formation, ship, weapon system or equipment to perform the missions or functions for which it is organized or designed.
- C. **Operational Effectiveness** – the degree to which operational forces are capable of performing their assigned missions in relation to known enemy capabilities.

D. **Effectiveness** – refers to the summative evaluation of a Unit or an individual performing a law enforcement operation. It is usually measured as performance on some outcome or outcomes associated with mission success.

7. GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

To ensure PCG operating Units maintain consistent readiness that aligns with expected operational outcomes (effectiveness), comprehensive assessments must be conducted before, during and after deployment. These assessments verify that Unit performance meets established Command policies and effectiveness standards. Mandatory pre-departure briefings and readiness evaluations shall be conducted before any deployment of PCG personnel to high-tension areas.

A. **PRE-DEPLOYMENT PHASE:** The conduct of Pre-Departure Briefing is mandatory. The following tasks are hereby directed:

i. Commander, CGWCEISC

- a) Ensure secure communication, and star-link internet is provided;
- b) Ensure updated e-charts are onboard;
- c) Ensure the Angels of the Sea are readily available prior deployment;
- d) Ensure COMELEX onboard vessels were checked, and PMS is conducted;
- e) Ensure satellite phone systems are programmed with emergency contacts;
- f) Test all vessel surveillance systems including radar and AIS;
- g) Provide technical briefing on electronic countermeasures; and
- h) Install and verify functionality of encrypted data transmission systems.

ii. Commander, CGFLEET

- a) Ensure Unit and Personnel Readiness;

- b) Ensure rotation of personnel in terms of R&R, and Leaves are provided;
- c) Ensure operational readiness of vessel;
- d) Conduct hull integrity assessments prior to deployment;
- e) Verify adequate fuel, provisions and supplies for extended operations; and
- f) Conduct readiness drills for crew proficiency evaluation.

iii. District Commander

- a) Provide briefing in the Areas of Operation (AO);
- b) Ensure readiness of battle staff;
- c) Ensure that communications between vessels and District Command Center are operational;
- d) Provide intelligence briefing on other vessels operating in the area;
- e) Establish clear chain of command and reporting protocols;
- f) Brief on current diplomatic situation and sensitivities;
- g) Coordinate with other government agencies for joint operations; and
- h) Establish emergency extraction procedures if needed.

iv. The Chief Nurse, CGNS

- a) Ensure that dedicated CGNS Team is onboard prior deployment;
- b) Conduct health screening of all personnel for deployment;
- c) Provide specialized first aid training for maritime incidents;
- d) Ensure adequacy of medical supplies for extended operations; and
- e) Conduct Psychosocial Assessment to deployed personnel.

v. Director, PCGCC

- a) Establish communication schedules and protocols;
- b) Brief on emergency reporting procedures;
- c) Provide updated weather and sea state forecasts; and
- d) Ensure that redundant communication channels are established.

vi. Commander, CGLS

- a) Brief on Rules of Engagement (ROE) specific to the mission;
- b) Provide clear guidance on documentation of incidents;
- c) Brief on legal aspects of evidence collection and preservation;
- d) Review international maritime laws applicable to the patrol area; and
- e) Provide guidance on handling foreign vessels and personnel encounters.

vii. Commander, NHQ-PCG Medical Dispensary

- a) Provide specialized medical kits for anticipated scenarios;
- b) Brief medical personnel on treatment protocols for maritime injuries;
- c) Ensure vaccination requirements are met for the deployment area; and
- d) Conduct stress management and psychological preparation briefings.

viii. DCCGS for Intelligence, CG-2

- a) Provide detailed area threat assessment;
- b) Brief on known vessel patterns of foreign state actors;

- c) Share recognition guides for vessels of interest;
- d) Establish intelligence collection priorities;
- e) Brief on counter-surveillance techniques;
- f) Installation of Starlink Equipment to deployed vessel;
- g) Provide personnel to conduct intelligence gathering;
- h) Provide updated intelligence report to CPCG and concerned agencies for information operations and strategic communication to external audiences; and
- i) Brief media personnel, marine scientists, private individuals, or other parties boarding PCG vessels on confidential mission details, safety and security risks and relevant rules and regulations.

ix. DCCGS for Operations, CG-3

- a) Brief on mission objectives and success criteria;
- b) Provide contingency plans for various scenarios;
- c) Establish reporting thresholds for significant events;
- d) Brief on approved patrol patterns and engagement protocols; and
- e) Conduct tabletop exercises for high-risk scenarios.

x. DCCGS for MCWEIS, CG-11

- a) Ensure documentation of vessel technical capabilities;
- b) Verify integration of all weapon systems and sensors;
- c) Provide guidance on documentation and reporting formats; and
- d) Establish data backup procedures for collected information.

B. **DEPLOYMENT PHASE:** During the Deployment Phase, the following tasks are hereby directed:

i. District Commander

- a) Maintain daily operational oversight of deployed vessels;
- b) Coordinate additional resource allocation as needed;
- c) Provide updated intelligence to deployed assets;
- d) Liaise with concerned units and Central Staff on significant developments;
- e) Authorize operational adjustments based on evolving situations;
- f) Update report, and keep the Commandant informed at all times on critical situation reports;
- g) Man battle staff, and ensure that battle staffs are monitoring the deployment 24/7;
- h) Regularly update and record chronological reports for the duration of the mission; and
- i) Coordinate with adjacent Coast Guard District Commanders, AFP Unified Commands and PNP Regional Commands on the deployment mission anchored on the JPSCC Framework.

ii. Director, PCGCC

- a) Maintain 24/7 monitoring of deployed vessels;
- b) Process and disseminate intelligence and report updates from the vessel;
- c) Coordinate cross-agency communication with AFP-PNP Command Center; and
- d) Maintain incident log and situation awareness.

iii. DCCGS for Intelligence, CG-2

- a) Analyze incoming intelligence from vessels;
- b) Provide real-time threat assessments;
- c) Coordinate with other intelligence agencies;
- d) Direct specific intelligence collection tasks as needed; and
- e) Brief Command on evolving patterns of interest.

iv. DCCGS for Operations, CG-3

- a) Monitor operational execution based on mission objectives;
- b) Provide tactical guidance for evolving situations;
- c) Coordinate with adjacent maritime operations;
- d) Authorize tactical adjustments within mission parameters; and
- e) Ensure operational reporting compliance.

v. Commanding Officer, PCG Vessel

- a) Execute patrol operations according to mission directives;
- b) Maintain vessel readiness throughout deployment;
- c) Document all encounters with vessels of interest;
- d) Provide regular situation reports to PCGCC;
- e) Make tactical decisions within authorized parameters;
- f) Ensure crew welfare and operational tempo is sustainable; and
- g) Conduct regular drills to maintain readiness.

C. **POST DEPLOYMENT PHASE:** For the Post-Deployment Phase, the following tasks are hereby directed:

i. Commander, CGFLEET

- a) Conduct debriefing with vessel command;
- b) Address gaps and challenges of vessel performance;
- c) Identify lessons learned for future operations and vessel deployment; and
- d) Maintain a responsive vessel support facility.

ii. District Commander

- a) Conduct operational debriefing with vessel command;
- b) Evaluate mission effectiveness and report to higher command;
- c) Identify lessons learned for future operations;
- d) Recognize exceptional performance and issue appropriate unit award; and
- e) Incorporate mission outcomes into future operational plans.

iii. The Chief Nurse, CGNS

- a) Conduct post-deployment health assessments;
- b) Identify and address any health issues developed during deployment;
- c) Provide stress management support and post deployment psychosocial assessment;
- d) Document health-related lessons learned; and
- e) Recommend health protocol improvements for future deployments.

- iv. Director, PCG Command Center
 - a) Compile comprehensive mission reports;
 - b) Archive all operational communications and logs;
 - c) Analyze communication effectiveness during operations;
 - d) Identify communication gaps or failures; and
 - e) Recommend improvements to communication protocols.
- v. DCCGS for Intelligence, CG-2
 - a) Process and analyze collected intelligence;
 - b) Produce intelligence reports from mission data;
 - c) Update vessel and actor databases with new information;
 - d) Assess intelligence collection effectiveness; and
 - e) Brief Command on intelligence implications.
- vi. DCCGS for Operations, CG-3
 - a) Evaluate operational effectiveness based on objectives;
 - b) Document tactical lessons learned;
 - c) Update operational procedures based on experiences;
 - d) Brief Command on operational outcomes; and
 - e) Develop recommendations for future operations.
- vii. Commanding Officer, PCG Vessel
 - a) Submit detailed after-action reports;
 - b) Document all significant events during deployment;
 - c) Provide assessment of vessel and equipment performance;
 - d) Report on crew performance and readiness;

- e) Recommend improvements for future operations; and
- f) Ensure complete maintenance assessment of vessel systems.

D. RESPONSE TIME:

- i. ***Maritime Sovereignty Patrols in High-Tension Areas and routine MARSEC Operations:*** PCG Vessels conducting sovereignty patrols or routine maritime security operations in high-tension areas shall maintain deployment readiness within two (2) hours following the completion of Pre-Departure Briefing. This standardize response window ensures that vessels are thoroughly prepared while maintaining tactical responsiveness to emerging situations.
- ii. ***Search and Rescue Operations, Medical Evacuation and Oil Spill:*** Due to the time-sensitive nature of emergency response operations, Pre-Departure Briefings are waived to facilitate immediate deployment. Response times are established based on vessel-class capabilities:

VESSEL CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSE TIME	OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
97M and 83M Class Vessels	2 Hours	Large patrol vessels equipped for extended operations and severe weather conditions
44M, 35M and 24Ft Class Vessels	30 Minutes	Medium patrol vessels for rapid response in moderate conditions
HSRBs, RBs and ABs	15 Minutes	High Speed and auxiliary boats for immediate response in favorable conditions

- iii. ***Special Operations:*** Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) and Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) Responses are specialized in nature and has high risk profile operations.

- a) Pre-Deployment Briefing is essential prior departure for all personnel involved in the operation.
- b) Comprehensive Personnel Protective Equipment shall be equipped with appropriate level based on threat assessment.
- c) CBRN-certified response teams shall be mobilized as primary responders.
- d) Decontamination stations and procedure will be established prior to deployment.
- e) Post exposure monitoring will be implemented for all responding personnel.
- f) Command Center shall maintain continuous communication with CBRN/HNS response teams throughout the operation, and coordinate with relevant agencies including Department of Health, OCD, NDRRMC and AFP-PNP CBRN Units.

8. RESCISSION

This SOP does not rescind existing policies, directives or publications related to PCG operations. Rather, it serves as a supplemental guideline specifically for the conduct of Pre-Departure Briefings for PCG personnel and vessels prior to deployment to high-risk and high-tension areas.

9. EFFECTIVITY

This SOP shall take effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF ADMIRAL GAVAN PCG:

OFFICIAL:

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