The 7th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Pacific Eagle–Philippines (OPE-P) summarizes the quarter’s key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in their fight against ISIS–East Asia (ISIS-EA) and other terrorist organizations.

**First Suicide Bombing Committed by a Philippine National**  
On June 28, a suicide attack by ISIS-EA on an AFP camp killed 5 and wounded 22.  
At least one of the 2 attackers was identified as a native Filipino.  
U.S. and Philippine officials are reassessing previous assumptions that the Filipino people are culturally averse to suicide bombing.  
The attack also challenges the notion that Philippine jihadists have adopted the ISIS “brand” while rejecting its extremist ideology.

**AFP Struggles to Combat ISIS-EA Kidnap-for-Ransom Operations**  
On April 6, an AFP rescue mission for 3 hostages freed 1, but left 1 dead and 1 in critical condition.  
On May 31, a Dutch hostage held by ISIS-EA since 2012 was killed attempting to escape during a firefight between his captors and the AFP.  
On June 18, Philippine kidnap-for-ransom gangs raided 2 fishing boats and abducted 10 crew members off the coast of Malaysia.

**Bangsamoro Government Faces Initial Challenges**  
The new semi-autonomous regional government in the southern Philippines is led by former militants with little or no governing experience.  
The Bangsamoro government began its first months of work without a budget or pay.  
Successful self-governance could defuse jihadist sentiments, but failure could embolden extremists.  
Questions remain about how the Bangsamoro government will integrate 40,000 former militants into civilian life.

**DoD Modifies Order Governing OPE-P**  
The new order removes the “contingency operation” designation that had been in place since 2017.  
The DoD will continue to use overseas contingency operations funds for activities supporting OPE-P.

**Conflict Continues to Disrupt Local Communities**  
Fighting between the AFP and ISIS-EA temporarily displaced 51,000 residents, most of whom were able to return home.  
USAID funding focused on rebuilding communities and countering violent extremism.  
Debris removal, unexploded ordnance, and contractor disputes continued to delay reconstruction of Marawi, leaving 66,000 displaced indefinitely.

**U.S. Training of Philippine Partners Focuses on Counterterrorism**  
7,500 U.S. and Philippine troops participated in an annual training exercise, which included maritime security, close air support, amphibious, and humanitarian/civic operations.  
DoS provided training to Philippine law enforcement in crisis response and critical infrastructure security.  
The AFP received and Philippine law enforcement requested counterterrorism training from Israel.

**Lead IG Oversight Activity**  
Lead IG agencies completed 2 reports, including an audit that found DoD aviation training facilities were inadequate to meet mission needs.  
Lead IG and partner agencies coordinated on 2 open investigations and had 4 oversight projects ongoing.