The 10th 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 violent extremist organizations (VEO).

**Philippine Government Moves to Withdraw from Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)**

- The U.S.-Philippine VFA is scheduled to terminate on **August 9**, 180 days after the announcement on February 11.
- Since 1999, the VFA has provided *expedited entry* of U.S. military personnel and equipment into the Philippines for combined activities.
- The VFA also governs *jurisdiction for crimes* committed by U.S. military personnel in country.
- Senior DoD officials said that losing the VFA would make it more challenging to support counterterrorism activities in the Philippines.
- The Philippine government could still reverse its decision before August 9.

**AFP Engages in Minor Clashes With ISIS-EA**

- A week-long offensive in Maguindanao province resulted in the **deaths of 14 terrorists** and 4 AFP soldiers.
- The AFP seized firearms, ammunition, and explosives in a raid on an ISIS-EA camp in early March.
- U.S. special operations forces provided *casualty evacuation* assistance to 5 AFP troops wounded fighting ISIS-EA on Mindanao.

**USAID Programs Focus on Economic Recovery and COVID-19**

- USAID’s Marawi Response Project provided **1,133 micro-grants** to displaced individuals.
- The Project also provided **2,273 grants** for community improvement to repair *water systems*, solar dryers, and streetlights.
- As of March 31, the U.S. Government committed **$4 million** to support the Philippine government’s *COVID-19 response* efforts.
- USAID plans to collaborate with the Philippine government to support *COVID-19 testing* and medical supply delivery.

**COVID-19 Pandemic Limits AFP Counterterrorism Activity**

- The U.S. Embassy assessed that the AFP lacked the capacity to conduct sustained *counterterrorism* and *pandemic response* operations simultaneously.
- On March 18, the Philippine government declared a *ceasefire with communist rebels* to focus on combating COVID-19.
- AFP resources, including heavy airlift capacity, have been diverted to pandemic response.
- The AFP suspended large military formations after several troops contracted the disease.
- COVID-19-related travel restrictions have limited the use of the VFA in the agreement’s final months.

**DoS Programs Target Violent Extremism**

- DoS programs trained **213 Philippine security officials** in digital forensics, crisis management, identifying foreign terrorists, and other skills.
- The DoS engaged with regional government leaders in the southern Philippines to identify and counter drivers of violent extremism.

**Martial Law Ends, but Violence Continues**

- The AFP continued to maintain an *active counterterrorism* presence in the southern Philippines after martial law ended on January 1.
- Mindanao business leaders’ hopes that the end of martial law would bring investment have been tempered by continued violence and COVID-19.

**Oversight**

- Lead IG and partner agencies had **9** ongoing oversight projects this quarter, including an audit of DoD mobile medical teams’ readiness and an inspection of the DoS Bureau of Counterterrorism.
- Lead IG and partner agencies coordinated on **4** open investigations involving *fraud, theft, and corruption*.