



# FACT SHEET

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MANILA  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE: International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program



The U.S. Department of Justice's **International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP)** Philippines field office, established in 2006, works in partnership with the Philippine National Police (PNP) on a variety of police training and development projects throughout the country, with an emphasis on building the PNP's law enforcement capacity. ICITAP focuses its initiatives and accompanying resources in three key projects: Model Police Station (MPS), Maritime Police Project/Special Boat Unit (SBU), and the Southern Philippines Law Enforcement Development (SPLED) project. These projects address training and developmental needs collaboratively identified by the PNP, ICITAP, and other U.S. Government entities, from basic to advanced police competencies that include criminal investigations, maritime law enforcement, community policing, leadership, trafficking in persons, counter-terrorism, and many others. As of December 31, 2012, ICITAP training has reached **21,856** PNP personnel.

### **Model Police Station (MPS):**

MPS was established in 2007 and ICITAP was ideally situated to provide startup and continued support for this project with a coherent fusion of personnel development; advancement of an internally sustainable training capacity; and the provision of materials, technical experts and equipment. ICITAP-Philippines, the PNP's Directorate for Human Resources and Doctrine Development (DHRDD), the PNP Training Service (PNPTS), the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), and city police directors/chiefs, have worked diligently to create the MPS regimen and have developed a very healthy, mutually supportive relationship that has enabled the MPS project to greatly exceed expectations. The project is implemented in multiple phases and in total provides training and mentorship on 22 core police competencies at 26 locations throughout the country. To date, MPS has provided training to **17,356** PNP personnel.



PNP investigators process a mock crime scene as part of an ICITAP Crime Scene investigations course

### **Southern Philippines Law Enforcement Development (SPLED):**

The primary goal of the SPLED project is to strengthen the institutional capacity and performance of the PNP and to organize, train, develop, and equip the PNP to effectively combat transnational organized crime and terrorism; to build and sustain a capability and willingness to deliver fair and effective policing services; and to enhance police-public stakeholder relationships through thoughtful implementation of community policing projects. SPLED activities occur within the JSOTF-P area of operations and are carried out in concert with DOD engagement initiatives. Over the course of SPLED, and some small ancillary projects with similar a focus, as of December 31, 2012, ICITAP has provided training to **2,874** PNP personnel.



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Unique to the SPLED project, training goals are targeted with the intention to provide foundational police training to virtually every individual officer serving in the critical areas of concern. These critical areas include Sulu Province, Tawi-Tawi Province, Cotabato City, and Isabela City. The SPLED project also provides advanced and specialized training to selected units and individuals, as demonstrated by the training and establishment of four School Resource Officer projects in the Southern Philippines.

A second component of SPLED is the establishment of a modern crime laboratory in Zamboanga City, which is responsible for the forensic examination needs of the Zamboanga Peninsula and the Sulu Archipelago. The project involves construction of a new crime laboratory; extensive procurement of modern equipment, instrumentation, and supplies; highly specialized training for laboratory personnel; and expert technical mentorship. The building was dedicated in September 2010, and equipment acquisition/training activities continue commenced in 2011.

## **Maritime Policing – Special Boat Unit (SBU):**

In 2006, a strategic collaboration with the Philippine National Police Maritime Group launched the Special Boat Unit (SBU) project. The SBU was specifically designed to provide the Philippines' first truly viable law enforcement capability in the maritime domain. Infrastructure development for this project is heavily supported by DOD's Joint Interagency Task Force-West (JIATF-West). ICITAP, along with DOD partners, has provided extensive training, equipment, spare parts, and advice. The SBU is headquartered in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, with one outstation fully manned in Balabac Island, and two additional outstations funded for construction in the near future in the Tawi-Tawi Province, which will allow the unit to project law enforcement response along the entire Malaysian sea border, into the Sulu Archipelago, and into the West Philippines Sea. Four 10m (33') patrol boats were put into service in August 2010; two additional boats were donated to the SBU in August 2012. Since the SBU became operational, its personnel have arrested more than 340 persons, seized vessels and contraband with a total value exceeding \$1.2M USD, and rescued/evacuated over 260 endangered citizens. ICITAP has also sponsored and facilitated training events, exercises, and meetings between Philippine, Indonesian, and Malaysian maritime officials to enhance regional maritime law enforcement cooperation. As of December 31, 2012, the SBU project has provided training to **1,626** PNP officers.



One of six USG donated SBU patrol boats during training exercise in Palawan



SBU patrol boats donated by the U.S. government