

BENJAMIN B MAGALONG



Director Benjie Magalong is considered a *Baguio Boy* although his roots originated from the province of Pangasinan.. Throughout his career, both in the Police and the Military, he worked silently, yet produces positive and significant results.

He prepared himself academically to occupy various positions of responsibility. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1982 belonging to Sandigan Class. He was assigned to operational and administrative duties in different units of the PC/INP and PNP.

He specialized in Intelligence, Investigation, Operations and Training, Counter Terrorism, Crisis Negotiations, Anti-drug and Anti-money Laundering Operations and Command Management.

Benjie completed various Law Enforcement Courses, both local and abroad. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He also completed the Counter Terrorists Operation Course in Louisiana, USA, and the Senior Crisis Management Course in Washington, DC not to mention the numerous tactical and operational courses he complete while in the Police service. He is parachutist, a scuba diver, a boxer and a member of the PNP Shooting Team.

In the span of 38 years and 8 months, he received more than 166 Military and PNP achievement and merit Medals for his combat and law enforcement accomplishments, among which, are the Distinguished Conduct Star, the Distinguished Service Star, the PNP Gold Cross and 15 Outstanding Achievement Medals.

He was awarded Junior Field Officer of the Year in 1993, Staff Officer of the Year in 1995, Senior Field Officer for 1999 and 2000, Lingkod Bayan Award Semi-Finalist in the Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees by the Civil Service Commission. In August 2014 during the 113th Police Service Anniversary, he received the Individual Achievement Award for Criminal Investigation. Recently, he was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Citizen of Baguio City in the field of Public Service.

He spent most of his assignments in the Cordillera Region and Mindanao. He is well known as a SAF trooper having spent significant number of years with the Special Action Force. In 2007, he was detailed with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency as its Chief of Staff and after a few months, he was designated as Regional Director of the Metro Manila Regional Office. He occupied various positions of command responsibility in the PNP, namely: Regional Director of PRO-Cordillera, Director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Management, Director of the Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management, and before his retirement, he was designated as The Acting Deputy CPNP for Operations.

Director Magalong was once the Chairman of the TWG of the PNP Transformation Program or "Patrol Plan 2030", being well known for paving genuine transformation programs in all offices that he commanded, physically and internally, earning him the respect of many of his peers and subordinates.

Director Magalong was lauded for his uncompromising integrity. In the PNP ranks, he is respected for being an advocate of honesty and truth unmindful of the risks these brings to his career and personal life. Heading the Board of Inquiry for the Mamasapano case was probably the most crucial of all the positions he was entrusted with. In fact, a veteran journalist, before the start of the investigation asked him how he will ensure an honest and fair investigation. Benjie Magalong replied that the members of the board were no longer thinking of their careers and ambitions. True enough, despite the many controversial issues surrounding the case, he never wavered as he stood his ground, stayed impartial, and remained steadfast throughout the course of the investigation. As such, the report of the Board of Inquiry which he headed was then hailed by the media and other non-government institutions as "remarkable" and "fair" and concluded that the "public was served the rightful truth".