

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.'s  
SPEECH AT THE 76<sup>th</sup> FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE**

Clark Air Base, Pampanga  
July 3, 2023

[00:00:00]

Thank you for your kind introduction, our Defense Secretary, Secretary Gilbert Teodoro. Please take your seats.

Also joining us today is House Speaker, Speaker Martin Romualdez [applause]; the Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff, General Andy Centino [applause] and also the other Major Service Commanders who have joined us for today's commemoration; distinguished guests; fellow workers in government; ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is a great honor to be with you today as we commemorate the 76 strong years of selfless duty to the country by the Philippine Air Force.

We look back today on a very rich history of our Air Force, which can be traced from the stormy days of the First World War, when military aviation was first introduced here in our country. The dedication and sacrifice of all the personnel has demonstrated throughout history that has paved the way for the PAF's growth and success over the last 76 years.

We stand today to recognize the outstanding PAF officers, members and units who have shown exemplary dedication to securing our nation and defending our skies. You have contributed in laying the groundwork for the enhancement of our aerial defense capabilities.

So, on behalf of the Filipino people, I thank you for your service. May you continue doing your best in all the endeavors that you are given and inspire your fellow airmen and airwomen to do the same.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I am proud to see the great distance that we and that the PAF has flown to ensure the security and sovereignty of our beloved nation. The achievements exemplify the values that the PAF stands for: integrity, excellence and patriotism.

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As members of the Philippine Air Force, you must always uphold these values as the custodians of our skies, entrusted with the task of upholding our national interests, protecting our people and defending our territory. Your service also goes far beyond conflict, extending into the depths of calamity and humanitarian crises, where you have selflessly extended a helping hand to those in need. And through the years, you have also supported the Philippine Army and other law enforcement agencies in upholding internal security, making our communities safe from various threats.

I reiterate that this administration is committed to strengthening the Armed Forces, including the Philippine Air Force, through the acquisitions under the AFP Modernization Program.

Ladies and gentlemen, the days ahead will not be easy and will demand every ounce of our strength and our resilience. The winds of change signal geopolitical challenges around our region and other parts of the world that has yet affect us.

The Philippine Air Force's maritime air patrol missions are thus essential in upholding our territorial integrity and safeguarding Philippine maritime zones. I wish nothing but the best for the Philippine Air Force as it continues to soar to greater heights.

May you also remain united in purpose, indomitable in spirit and unwavering in your dedication to protect our beloved republic. Once again, happy anniversary to the Philippine Air Force!

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Hukbong Himpapawid ng Pilipinas! Magandang tanghali po sa inyong lahat. [applause]

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