Intelligence Division Administration Practices of the Philippine National Police in Relation to Crime Detection and Resolution

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Abstract

The study aimed to find out the practices of the Intelligence Division of the PNP in Zamboanga del Norte in terms of planning the collection effort, collection of information, processing the gathered information, dissemination, use of information, as well as the level of the Intelligence Division administration in crime detection and resolution. Results showed that Dapitan Police Station frequently practices proper planning while Dipolog and Provincial Stations very frequently practice prior to collecting information. It was revealed that the police stations were in need of additional personnel to cope with works in gathering of more information, as well as modern technology for easy action and communication in the actual operation. There were only few crime detection and resolution being practiced. Crime detection has no significant relationship to collection of information. A significant relationship was revealed in planning the collection effort, processing of information and dissemination of information in crime detection. Resolution of crime was significantly related to collection and processing of information but not to planning and dissemination.

Key words and phrase: *PNP Intelligence Division, Practices, Crime Detection and Resolution*

Introduction

Law enforcement is one of three major components of the justice system along with courts and corrections. Although there exists an inherent interrelatedness between the different groups that make up the criminal justice system based on their crime deterrence purpose, each component operates independently from one another. Apart from maintaining order and service functions, the purpose of policing is the investigation of suspected criminal activity and the referral of the results of investigations and of suspected criminals to the courts.

In the country, law enforcement agency like the Philippine National Police is one of the five (5) pillars of the criminal justice system along with prosecution, court, correction and the community. The Philippine National Police being the frontliner of the justice process today is indeed challenged by time in terms of the effectiveness of the institution

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in maintaining a peaceful and orderly society and its efficiency and effectiveness in deterring criminal activity and preventing the successful commission of crimes.

One of the most notable and exceptional duty of the PNP is the intelligence work which is oftentimes called as undercover work. It is a unique investigative technique applied by law enforcement specifically the Philippine National Police. It is the reason behind not wearing a uniform while on duty and while on the process of acquiring information. It is part of the same intelligence-gathering functions commonly called as espionage, use of informants, and surveillance. It typically involves an assumed identity. It allows the police officer to cover in areas where the police are not welcomed. The primordial function of the undercover personnel who are assigned in the Intelligence Division of the PNP is to gather adequate information to come up with a successful prosecution as a final resolution of the case on file.

This paper looks into the practices of the intelligence division of the PNP in the twin cities of Zamboanga del Norte, Dipolog and Dapitan which could be a basis to improve their services as they are commissioned to do so, after all they are accountable to the citizens of the Philippines.

Methods

The descriptive method of research was used in the study with thorough investigation and interpretation of the Intelligence Division Administration of the PNP with the aid of questionnaire. A total of 163 respondents were interviewed in the study. The descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage were used to summarize the generated data and were inferred using chi-square test and Pearson r Product Moment coefficient of Correlation.

Results

As presented in Table 1, Dipolog Police Station, the highest age bracket was 21-25 with a frequency count of 38 or 57.58 percent which means that the members of the police force in Dipolog City were less experienced in handling problems confronting police matters including intelligence work. On the other hand, the respondent's police officers in the Provincial Police Station whose age bracket ranged 36-40 with a frequency count of 21 or 46.67 were matured enough in handling cases confronting police works.

Table 1   Profile of the Respondents as to Age

Age Bracket	Dapitan Station		Dipolog Station		Provincial Station	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
21 - 25	13	25.00	38	57.58	4	8.89
26 – 30	14	26.92	14	21.21	0	0.00
31 – 35	7	13.46	7	10.61	6	13.33
36 – 40	5	9.62	2	3.03	21	46.67
above 40	13	25.00	5	7.58	14	31.11
Total	**52**	**100.00**	**66**	**100.00**	**45**	**100.00**

Table 2 is the profile of the respondents in terms of their educational attainment. About 44 or 84.61 % of the respondents were BS degree holder and 2 or 3.85% respondents from Dapitan Police Station were full-fledged master's degree. In Dipolog Police Station, 56 or 84. 85% respondents were BS Degree and 1 or 1.52 percent respondent with master's degree. While in the Provincial Police Station, 37 or 82.22% have attained BS degree and 3 or 6.67% respondent with full-fledged master's degree**.**

Table 2   Profile of the Respondents as to Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Dapitan Station		Dipolog Station		Provincial Station	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
BS Degree	44	84.61	56	84.85	37	82.22
w/ MA Units	6	11.54	9	13.63	5	11.11
MA full-fledged	2	3.85	1	1.52	3	6.67
w/ Doctoral units	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Doctorate Degree	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	**52**	**100.00**	**66**	**100.00**	**45**	**100.00**

The results show that most of the police officers in Dapitan and Provincial Police Stations underwent more than fifty (50) hours of training. This means that they have adequate knowledge in combating criminal activities and are knowledgeable in intelligence works. While Dipolog City police force registered the highest number of personnel who attended trainings for twenty (20) and below hours is indicative that most of the personnel in the City are not so experienced in terms of police matters. This finding is corroborated by Miller, et. al (2007) who averred that training is critical for a successful transition to community policing.

Table 3   Profile of the Respondents as to Training

No. of Hours	Dapitan Station		Dipolog Station		Provincial Station	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
20 and below	9	17.31	26	39.40	3	6.67
21 – 30	5	9.61	6	9.09	0	0.00
31 – 40	5	9.61	6	9.09	3	6.67
41 – 50	3	5.77	4	6.06	2	4.44
above 50	30	57.69	24	36.36	37	82.22
Total	**52**	**100.00**	**66**	**100.00**	**45**	**100.00**

Table 4 presents the respondents' practices in crime detection. Respondents in Dapitan and Dipolog Stations obtained the lowest average mean on the item 4 which is "well-provided modern technology for easy action and communication" interpreted as much available resources in crime detection. While in the Provincial Police Station, the well-disbursed intelligence fund for undercover work was rated by the respondents with an average weighted mean of 3.04 which is interpreted as available.

The result means that in the case of Dapitan and Dipolog Police Stations, modern technology is inadequate which can be used for efficient and effective crime detection. While in the case of the Provincial Police Station, there is an absence of well-disbursed

intelligence fund, this implies that funds intended for intelligence work are not properly liquidated. While, it is true that a big lump sum of money is allotted to the military, funds have always been a subject of public scrutiny.

Table 4   Profile of the Respondents as to Crime Detection

Items	Dapitan Station		Dipolog Station		Provincial Station	
	AWV	D	AWV	D	AWV	D
1.Well-developed undercover operational plan	4.23	VMA	4.35	VMA	3.80	MA
2.Well-trained and knowledgeable personnel	4.17	MA	4.35	VMA	3.76	MA
3.Well-disbursed intelligence fund	3.80	MA	4.26	VMA	3.04	A
4.Well-provided modern technology. for easy action and communication	3.76	MA	4.18	MA	3.16	A
5.Well-established task negotiation among new detectives	3.96	MA	4.23	VMA	3.42	MA
6.Undercover profiles for a range of offenders and victims are well-prepared	3.98	MA	4.28	VMA	3.42	MA
7.Superior manpower and equipment are well-provided	3.74	MA	4.19	MA	3.18	A
8.Identity of personnel is well-protected	3.98	MA	4.34	VMA	3.59	MA
9.Skills and expertise of personnel in giving assignments are well-considered	4.05	MA	4.25	VMA	3.53	MA
10.Linkages to other agencies is well-considered	4.09	MA	4.27	VMA	3.57	MA
Mean	**3.98**	**MA**	**4.27**	**VMA**	**3.45**	**MA**

Table 5 presents the respondents practices on crime resolution. Based on the presentation, suspected violators are oftentimes in jail obtained the lowest average weighted mean of 3.90 interpreted as frequently practice by the respondents in Dapitan Station. On the other hand, percentage of crime solution obtained the lowest weighted average mean by the respondents both in Dipolog and Provincial Police Stations.

The result means that in the case of crime resolution, the police officer- respondents are weak in putting the suspected violators to jail. This is also manifested in the result of the lowest percentage of the average weighted mean in crime resolution by the respondents for both Dipolog and Provincial Police stations though resources to crime resolution is very much available in Dipolog Station. This was stressed on the study of the National Institute of Justice (Secrets of Success 2001) which looked into the variables affecting the clearance of homicides. This study found that a case more than twice as likely to be solved if three or more detectives are assigned as compared to just one.

Table 5   Profile of the Respondents as to Crime Resolution

Items	Dapitan Station		Dipolog Station		Provincial Station	
	AWV	D	AWV	D	AWV	D
1.Application of warrant of arrest is oftentimes made.	4.11	MA	4.38	VMA	3.84	MA
2.Apprehensions of suspected violators is oftentimes done.	4.11	MA	4.42	VMA	3.78	MA
3.Suspected violators are often times brought to court for litigation.	4.07	MA	4.33	VMA	3.78	MA
4.Massive buy bust operation is oftentimes	4.12	MA	4.23	VMA	3.77	MA

Items	Dapitan Station		Dipolog Station		Provincial Station	
	AWV	D	AWV	D	AWV	D
happening.						
5. Probable cause to convict the suspects are oftentimes established.	3.92	MA	4.29	VMA	3.71	MA
6. Recover stolen property	4.04	MA	4.30	VMA	3.56	MA
7. Percentage of crime solution is oftentimes high.	3.92	MA	4.28	VMA	3.52	MA
8. Criminal activities in the area of responsibility is oftentimes reduced.	4.00	MA	4.36	VMA	3.71	MA
9. Suspected violators are oftentimes in jail	3.90	MA	4.30	VMA	3.71	MA
10. Victims are oftentimes at peace after reporting the incident to the police.	4.06	MA	4.32	VMA	3.69	MA
Mean	**4.03**	**MA**	**4.32**	**VMA**	**3.71**	**MA**

Table 6   Test of Relationship Between Practices and Crime Detection

Independent Variable	Dependent	r-computed	t-computed	Decision
Planning	Crime Detection	0.492	7.170704*	Reject HO
Collection of Intelligence Information	Crime Detection	0.040	0.50795[ns]	HO not rejected
Processing of Intelligence Information	Crime Detection	-0.213	2.766144*	Reject HO
Dissemination of Information	Crime Detection	0.476	6.867696*	Reject HO

Table 6 shows the relationship between the practices and crime detection at 5% significant level. In planning and in crime detection when treated using pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, obtained a value of 0.492 which indicates that there is a moderate relationship between planning and crime detection. The t-test revealed the value of 7.170 which is greater than the tabular or critical value of 1.96. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, there is a significant relationship between planning and crime detection. This means that sound planning eventually leads to crime detection and suppression of criminal elements.

Table 7   Test of Relationship between Practices and Crime Resolution

Independent Variable	Dependent	r-computed	t-computed	Decision
Planning	Crime Resolution	0.083	1.056798[ns]	HO not rejected
Collection of Intelligence Information	Crime Resolution	0.367	5.006024*	Reject HO
Processing of Intelligence Information	Crime Resolution	-0.404	5.603864*	Reject HO
Dissemination of Information	Crime Resolution	-0.033	0.418951[ns]	HO not rejected

Table 7 presents the relationship between practices and crime resolution at 5% significant level. In planning and crime resolution when treated using Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient, revealed a value of 0.083 which indicates that there is a light relationship between planning and crime resolution. The t-test revealed the value of 1.056798 which is less than the critical value of 1.96. Hence, the null hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, there is no significant relationship between planning and resolution. This means

that a crime can be resolved even without undergoing thorough planning because crime resolution follows a legal procedure.

Conclusions

The results showed that police officers are on their middle age bracket and are generally dominated by male, educationally qualified. Majority of them are young in the service and have not been able to attend training more than fifty (50) hours.

Dapitan Police Station frequently practice the proper planning while Dipolog and Provincial Stations respondents very frequently practice prior to collecting information. There is need of additional personnel to cope up the works in the collection and gathering of more information. There is a need of a modern technology for easy action and communication both in Dapitan and Dipolog Stations to be used for crime detection. Intelligence funds are not properly disbursed and liquidated as manifested in the finding of Provincial Police Station. Only few crime detections and resolutions are always based on the practiced of the personnel in charged and accountable in their area of responsibility specifically the PNP members in the Intelligence Division.

Recommendations

It is recommended that effort in the Philippine National Police leadership must be made to help the policemen attain a specialized training designed to upgrade the investigative knowledge and skills attuned with the growing and sophisticated criminal activities. The Chief executives of Dapitan and Dipolog cities (if budget warrant) shall provide modern crime communication equipment and technologies for immediate solutions of crime and reduce problems of policemen. The Chief of Police shall design plans and programs in the intelligence division so that funds will be properly allocated and liquidated for transparency purposes. The Police Provincial Director as well as the chief of police in every city and municipality of the province shall make measures in assuring that all resources necessary for crime detection and resolution are put in place.

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