

**[ NAPOLCOM MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2003-005, March 06, 2003 ]**

**DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE TO UNDERTAKE  
AN INTENSIFIED AND UNRELENTING CAMPAIGN AND  
OPERATION AGAINST BANK ROBBERY**

WHEREAS, Her Excellency President GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, in her State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 22, 2002 before the Joint Session of Congress, declared war on all criminal syndicates targeting particularly bank robbery with the unequivocal declaration that "Criminal Syndicates will be treated as what they are, direct threat to national security";

WHEREAS, on the same occasion, the President announced her policy on the principle of Command Responsibility with the statement that "You have seen political will in the harsh interpretation of command responsibility with regard to illegal gambling. That draconian application was a dress rehearsal for enforcing command responsibility in the even more difficult challenges of kidnapping, drug-dealing and smuggling";

WHEREAS, the continuing assault on the rights of citizenry, occasioned by the unabated commissions of crimes with impunity, particularly in the commercial and urban areas of the community, has resulted not only in the loss of human lives and wanton destruction of properties but has severely affected development and prosperity, and at the same time, has undermined the people's faith in the Government and the latter's ability to maintain peace and order in the country;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police, being the premier law enforcement agency of the government, is mandated, among others, to "Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of lives and properties" and to "Maintain peace and order and take all necessary steps to ensure public safety";

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission, in the exercise of its administration and control functions over the Philippine National Police has resolved to direct, as it hereby directs, the PNP leadership from the Chief PNP to the lowest officer or unit commander, to undertake an intensified and relentless campaign and operation against bank robbery and accordingly prescribes the following rules and policies:

1. Police presence or police visibility is an accepted deterrent to the commission of crime. A uniformed police officer patrolling his beat gives peace of mind to every individual for his or her freedom of movement and engage in commerce. To a malefactor, such presence of a police officer discourages him to perpetrate his criminal and evil design.

Henceforth, there is an urgent need to increase police visibility by intensified foot and mobile patrols along thickly populated areas and busy commercial

districts. When necessary, control points shall be established.

2. Parallel to increased police visibility is the need to improve intelligence and counter-intelligence capabilities. It is desired always that law enforcement officers must be way ahead or one step ahead over the criminal elements in gathering information, monitoring their every movement and their activities.

In this regard, there is a need to create and maintain a database for every specific crime, such as carjacking.

Moreover, there should be published and printed at conspicuous places the name, pictures and other personal circumstances of notorious individuals involved in illegal activities.

3. Community support and involvement must be developed, cultivated and encouraged. The community must be made aware of positive strategies of the law enforcement agencies in the campaign against syndicated crimes. For this reason, information and educational campaign must be initiated including the organization of community-based and anti-crime fronts, movements or associations.
4. To ensure a more efficient, sustained, vigorous and resolute campaign against bank robbery, it is imperative that the, "Doctrine of Command Responsibility" be strictly applied at all levels of command in the PNP. For ready reference in the application of this Doctrine, quoted hereunder are Sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order No. 226 dated February 17, 1995, on the subject, "INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY IN ALL LEVELS OF COMMAND IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES" thus:

*"Section 1. Neglect of Duty Under the Doctrine of Command Responsibility.* Any government official or supervisor or officer of the Philippine National Police or that any other law enforcement agency shall be held accountable for "Neglect of Duty" under the doctrine of "Command Responsibility" if he has knowledge that a crime or offense shall be committed or has been committed by his subordinates or by others within his area of responsibility and despite such knowledge, he did not take preventive or corrective action either before, during or immediately after its commission.

*Section 2. Presumption of Knowledge.* A government official or supervisor, or PNP Commander, is presumed to have knowledge of the commission of irregularities or criminal offense in any of the following circumstances:

1. When the irregularities or illegal acts are widespread within his area of jurisdiction;
2. When the irregularities or illegal acts have been repeatedly or regularly committed within his area of responsibility; and
3. When members of his immediate staff or office personnel are involved."

5. Accordingly, in the campaign against Bank Robbery, the principle of command responsibility shall be observed not only when there is failure on the part of the commander or chief of office to act under the circumstances enumerated under E.O. No. 226 but for failure to perform his mandated tasks herein enumerated, to wit:

*a. Command Responsibility of the PNP Regional Director of the National Capital Regional Police Office.*

The Regional Director (RD) of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) shall have command responsibility over the District Directors and the Commanders of the Regional Mobile Group in his jurisdiction.

There shall be a presumption of negligence on the part of the Regional Director when two (2) or more of the Districts in his AOR have been determined to have six (6) or more unsolved incidents of bank robbery each per quarter.

*b. Command Responsibility of the PNP NCR District Director*

The District Director shall have command responsibility over the Chiefs of Police or Station Commanders of Numbered Stations of NCR Police Stations under his AOR.

There shall be a presumption of negligence on the part of the District Director when two (2) or more unsolved incidents of bank robbery each per quarter.

*c. Command Responsibility of the Chief of Police of NCR City/Municipal Police Station or Commander of Numbered Station.*

The Chief of Police of the City/Municipality or Station Commander of NCRPO shall exercise command responsibility over the commanders of the Sub-Stations/PCPs in his AOR.

There shall be a presumption of negligence on the part of the Chief of Police or Station Commander of the Police Station when two (2) or more of Sub-stations/Police Community Precincts within his AOR have been determined to have two (2) or more unsolved incidents of bank robbery each in a period of one (1) month.

*d. Command Responsibility of the Police Community Precinct or Sub-Station Commander*

The Police Community Precinct or Sub-Station Commander shall exercise command responsibility over Police Community Precinct or Sub-Station members.

There shall be a presumption of negligence on the part of the Police Community Precinct Commander or Sub-Station Commander when his AOR has been determined to have at least one (1) unsolved incident of bank robbery in a period of one (1) month.

*e. Command Responsibility of the Other PNP Regional Directors*