

Implementation of Police Operational Procedures in the Regional Mobile Force Battalion Region II: A Basis for Policy Enhancement

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Publication Date: May 15, 2026

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.20199612

Abstract

This study assessed the level of implementation of police operational procedures by the Regional Mobile Force Battalion Region 2 (RMFB 2) in Tuguegarao City for Calendar Year 2024. It examined four key operational components: internal security operations, law enforcement operations, public safety operations, and civic assistance operations. Using an explanatory sequential research design, data were gathered from two groups of respondents: seventy-eight RMFB personnel selected through total enumeration and thirty community residents selected through simple random sampling. A structured questionnaire based on the 2021 Revised Philippine National Police Operational Procedures was utilized.

Findings revealed that both groups perceived the implementation of police operational procedures as generally very high, with public safety and civic assistance operations receiving the highest ratings. Community residents consistently rated the level of implementation higher than RMFB personnel, indicating a more favorable public perception. Statistical analysis showed no significant differences in assessments when respondents were grouped according to most profile variables, except for educational attainment among residents in civic assistance operations. However, significant differences existed between the two groups' overall assessments. The study highlights the importance of aligning internal evaluations with community perceptions to enhance police effectiveness, strengthen public trust, and improve operational performance.

Keywords: *Police operational procedures; RMFB; public safety operations; law enforcement; internal security; civic assistance; community perception; police effectiveness; PNP; operational assessment*



Introduction

Police forces worldwide are responsible for maintaining public order and safety, enforcing laws, and preventing, detecting, and investigating criminal activities. These responsibilities, collectively known as police operational procedures, provide structured guidelines for the conduct of police operations and encompass all duties and practices implemented by law enforcement officers. Police operational procedures include the development and functions of patrol operations, investigative operations, and special operations that are integral to police work. In the Philippines, these functions are governed by the 2021 Revised Philippine National Police (PNP) Operational Procedures (POP), the official operations manual that provides updated, standardized, and legally compliant guidelines for all PNP activities. The 2021 POP, which superseded the 2013 edition, introduces key reforms such as the use of body-worn cameras, a revised use of force continuum, enhanced protocols for special operations, and updated policies aligning police actions with human rights and public safety mandates. It serves as the comprehensive framework for patrol, investigative, internal security, and special law enforcement operations, ensuring that officers carry out their duties effectively, lawfully, and ethically.

The legal basis for the PNP and its operational procedures is Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, which formalized the structure, powers, and functions of the PNP. RA 8551 established the PNP as a community centered law enforcement agency under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), tasked with enforcing laws, preventing crime, maintaining peace and order, and protecting life and property. The Act also emphasizes respect for human rights and adherence to due process, laying the legal foundation for the operational and administrative protocols reflected in the 2021 POP.

Additionally, Regional Mobile Force Battalions (RMFBs) were created under Republic Act No. 6975, the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990, which reorganized the PNP and created specialized units for rapid response, crowd control, and high-risk operations. The story of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) Region 2 is deeply intertwined with the evolution of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and its predecessor, the Philippine Constabulary (PC). It all began in 1977, when the PC/INP Regional Command 2 was established in the Cagayan Valley to address growing concerns about peace and security in the region.

From its early years, the command earned recognition for its strong campaigns against insurgency and crime, working hand in hand with various sectors of the community to protect lives and uphold order. A year later, its headquarters rose within the military reservation in Alimannao, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, a strategic base that became the center of its operations. Tasked with safeguarding the Cagayan Valley Region, the command successfully weakened insurgent groups through dedicated and well-planned efforts. When the Philippine National Police was created in 1991, the regional command underwent reorganization as part of the decentralization of mobile forces, giving birth to what is now known as RMFB Region 2 under the Police Regional Office 2 (PRO2).



Today, RMFB Region 2 continues to stand as a pillar of peace and security in the region. Its men and women tirelessly support PRO2 in public safety operations, law enforcement duties, and counterinsurgency efforts, serving with commitment and courage to keep the Cagayan Valley safe, peaceful, and secure for all. RMFBs are deployed nationwide to support local police forces during emergencies, internal security threats, and critical incidents requiring mobility, tactical expertise, and specialized manpower. These units are trained to perform operations ranging from law enforcement support and crowd control to intelligence-driven interventions, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to maintaining public order.

At present, police operational procedures define the duties, responsibilities, and field activities of law enforcement personnel. Within the Philippine National Police (PNP), the effectiveness of these procedures is typically measured through three primary functions: responding to calls for service, deterring crime through visible police presence, and investigating suspicious activities. Understanding the diverse aspects of police operations—such as communication systems, patrol methods, specialized operations, and the challenges of diversity—is essential, as it forms the basis for program enhancement in the country.

The world continues to experience significant challenges related to criminality, and the Philippines is no exception. Despite ongoing government initiatives to combat criminality, corruption, and illegal drugs, society remains dynamic, posing unpredictable challenges to peace and order. To address these challenges, the PNP is tasked with a wide range of activities and operations aimed at ensuring public safety and maintaining order within communities. The Regional Mobile Force Battalion Region 2 (RMFB 2) plays a role in enforcing laws, protecting lives and property, and sustaining community order. Police operational procedures expose officers to both direct and indirect risks, as the nature of police work remains inherently hazardous, with incidents of injuries and fatalities increasing in the line of duty, alongside exposure to infectious diseases and other occupational hazards. Following proper protocols and established guidelines under the 2021 Revised PNP POP, the police are authorized to carry out investigations, conduct special operations, and implement executive police operational measures to maintain peace and order (Dempsey, 2018).

As societal contexts shift, so too must policing strategies. RMFB 2 is transitioning from a traditionally militaristic posture toward a people-centered policing approach. The unit actively engages with local government units, faith-based institutions, non-government organizations, the private sector, and community stakeholders across Tuguegarao City, fostering trust and legitimacy.

Situated in Cagayan Valley, Tuguegarao City is the region's most populous urban center, with a population of 166,334 as of the 2020 Census. Its status as a regional center amplifies its relevance as the study locale—serving not only as an administrative and commercial hub but also as the operational base for RMFB 2 and the PSA's regional office. The city's vibrant demographics and logistical centrality make it an ideal microcosm for evaluating police operational implementation.

Existing studies primarily focus on police operational procedures at the national or provincial level, with limited research conducted on specialized and mobile force units that provide rapid response and reinforcement in critical situations. For instance, Santos (2020)



explored the implementation of police operational procedures among city police stations, highlighting challenges in training and community engagement. Similarly, Reyes and Dela Cruz (2021) examined the effectiveness of patrol operations in urban centers but did not include specialized units such as the Regional Mobile Force Battalions. There remains a lack of empirical studies that assess how mobile force units, such as RMFB 2, implement operational procedures in rural and high-risk operational settings. This study seeks to bridge that gap by providing a localized assessment, contributing to policy recommendations and strategic improvements for enhanced law enforcement operations. The primary objective of this study is to assess the level of implementation of the 2021 Revised PNP Operational Procedures at the Regional Mobile Force Battalion Region 2, within the legal frameworks established by RA 8551 and RA 6975, ensuring that both operational efficiency and community-centered policing are achieved.

Statement of the Problem

1. What is the demographic profile of the community residents in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age
 - 1.2 Sex
 - 1.3 Civil Status
 - 1.4 Highest Educational Attainment
 - 1.5 Years of Residency
2. What is the profile of the RMFB personnel in terms of:
 - 2.1 Age
 - 2.2 Sex
 - 2.3 Civil Status
 - 2.4 Highest Educational Attainment
 - 2.5 Length of Service in the PNP
 - 2.6 Rank
3. How do the two groups of respondents assess the level of implementation of police operational procedures in relation to the following operational components:
 - 3.1 Internal Security Operations
 - 3.2 Law Enforcement Operation
 - 3.3 Public Safety Operations



3.4 Civic Assistance Operations

4. Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the community resident's respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures when grouped according to their profile variables?
5. Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the RMFB respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures when grouped according to their profile variables?
6. Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the two groups of respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures?
7. What specific interventions or strategic actions may be recommended to enhance the implementation of police operational procedures, particularly in areas identified as least implemented?

Hypotheses

This study was guided by the following hypotheses:

1. There is no significant difference on the assessment of the community resident's respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures when grouped according to their profile variables.
2. There is no significant difference in the assessment of the RMFB respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures when grouped according to their profile variables.
3. There is no significant difference on the assessment of the two groups of respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures.

Methodology

Research Design

This study adopted an explanatory sequential design. This design was used when the researcher aimed to explain or expand quantitative results through the subsequent collection and analysis of qualitative data. It allowed for the initial gathering of numerical data to determine trends or levels, which was then followed by qualitative inquiry to gain deeper insight into the reasons behind those results. As noted by Creswell and Plano Clark (2018), the explanatory sequential design "involves two distinct phases: quantitative data collection and analysis followed by qualitative data collection and analysis to help explain or elaborate on the quantitative results." This approach was particularly suitable when quantitative findings required further clarification or contextual understanding based on participants' perspectives.



Results and Discussion

1. Profile of the community resident's respondents

- The profile of the community resident-respondents shows that most are below 30 years old (43.33 percent), with a mean age of 34 years, indicating a generally young to early middle-adult group. In terms of sex, the majority are male (60.00 percent), while females account for 40.00 percent. For civil status, slightly more respondents are married (53.33 percent) than single (46.67 percent). Regarding educational attainment, most are Bachelor's degree holders (53.33 percent), while 46.67 percent are non-degree holders. In terms of years of residency, the largest group has lived in the community for below 30 years (43.33 percent), followed by 30–39 years (30.00 percent) and 40 years and above (26.67 percent), with a mean residency of 32 years, indicating that respondents generally have sufficient long-term experience in the community.

2. Profile of the RMFB Personnel

- The profile of the RMFB personnel shows that most are aged 30–39 years (64.10 percent), with a mean age of 34 and an age range of 26–51, indicating a generally young to mid-adult workforce. The majority are male (91.03 percent), while only 8.97 percent are female. In terms of civil status, most are married (78.21 percent), while 21.79 percent are single. For educational attainment, almost all are Bachelor's degree holders (97.44 percent), with only a few holding master's (1.28 percent) and doctoral degrees (1.28 percent). Regarding length of service, most have 6–10 years (37.18 percent) or 5 years and below (34.62 percent), with a mean of 8 years and a range of 2–22 years, indicating a moderately experienced workforce. In terms of rank, the largest group are Patrol Officers (39.74 percent), followed by Police Corporals (28.21 percent), while higher ranks such as Police Executive Master Sergeant (1.28 percent) and Police Chief Master Sergeant (2.56 percent) comprise the smallest proportions, reflecting a rank distribution dominated by lower to mid-level personnel.

3. Respondents' Assessment on the Level of Implementation of Police Operational Procedures

3.1 Internal Security Operations

- Community residents reported a higher mean of 4.82 compared to RMFB personnel with 4.33, indicating very high perceived implementation from both groups.

3.2 Law Enforcement Operations

- Community residents again gave a higher mean rating of 4.85, while personnel rated it at 4.32, both reflecting full implementation.

3.3 Public Safety Operations



- Both groups recorded their highest ratings, with community residents at 4.94 and RMFB personnel at 4.36, suggesting that this area is the most strongly implemented as perceived by both respondents.

3.4 Civic Assistance Operations

- Community residents rated it at 4.93 while RMFB personnel rated it at 4.33, still indicating a consistently high level of implementation.
4. Comparison on the Assessment of the Community Resident Respondents on the Level of Implementation of Police Operational Procedures when Grouped according to Their Profile Variables
 - The results of the study indicate that there are generally no statistically significant differences in the assessment of community resident-respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures when grouped according to age, sex, civil status, and years of residency, as shown by p-values greater than 0.05 and consistent acceptance of the null hypothesis. Although slight variations in mean scores were observed across groups, all categories were consistently rated as Fully Implemented, with Public Safety Operations generally obtaining the highest ratings and Law Enforcement Operations slightly lower but still within the same interpretation level. However, a significant difference was found in Civic Assistance Operations when respondents were grouped according to highest educational attainment ($p = 0.049$), where non-degree holders rated the implementation higher than bachelor's degree holders, resulting in the rejection of the null hypothesis for that category.
 5. Comparison on the Assessment of the RMFB Personnel Respondents on the Level of Implementation of Police Operational Procedures when Grouped according to Their Profile Variables
 - The results of the study reveal that there are generally no statistically significant differences in the assessment of RMFB personnel-respondents on the level of implementation of police operational procedures when grouped according to age, sex, civil status, and length of service, as indicated by p values greater than 0.05 and consistent acceptance of the null hypothesis across all categories. Although variations in mean scores were observed, particularly with personnel aged 30–39 and those who are married consistently obtaining higher ratings, all groups still reflected interpretations within the same general level of implementation. Across all profile variables, Public Safety Operations and Law Enforcement Operations commonly received relatively higher means, while lower means were observed among older personnel and those with longer years of service in some categories, although these differences were not statistically significant.
 6. Comparison on the Assessment of the Two Groups of Respondents on the Level of Implementation of Police Operational Procedures



- The results of the comparison between community residents and RMFB personnel reveal that there are statistically significant differences in the assessment of the level of implementation of police operational procedures across all categories, as indicated by p-values less than 0.05 and the rejection of the null hypothesis. In all areas—Internal Security Operations, Law Enforcement Operations, Public Safety Operations, and Civic Assistance Operations—community residents consistently obtained higher mean scores than RMFB personnel. Notably, Public Safety Operations (Mean = 4.94) and Civic Assistance Operations (Mean = 4.93) received the highest ratings from community residents, while RMFB personnel recorded comparatively lower means across all categories, ranging from 4.32 to 4.36. This consistent pattern suggests a clear difference in perception between the two groups, where community residents tend to view the implementation of police operational procedures more positively than the personnel themselves.

Conclusion

The study shows that the effectiveness of police operational procedures is not just about following rules and procedures, but also about how these efforts are seen and experienced by different groups of people. While both the community and RMFB personnel agree that implementation is generally high, personnel tend to be more critical of their own performance compared to how the community views it. This suggests that police effectiveness is understood in different ways depending on whether one is part of the organization or receiving its services, making it a shared effort shaped by both action and perception. It also becomes clear that factors such as age, sex, civil status, and length of service do not greatly affect how people view police operations, meaning that perceptions are generally consistent across different groups. However, the difference between how the community and personnel see implementation points to an important reality: people are more likely to judge effectiveness based on what they directly observe and experience, such as visibility, accessibility, and community interaction, rather than internal standards. Overall, the findings highlight the need for better alignment between how police evaluate their work and how the public experiences it, to fully understand what “effective policing” really means.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby formulated:

1. PNP Regional and RMFB Commanders should continue to strengthen the implementation of police operational procedures by sustaining current best practices, particularly in Public Safety Operations and Civic Assistance Operations, where implementation was rated highest.
2. PNP RMFB is strongly encouraged to adopt and systematically implement the crafted intervention to improve areas identified as least implemented and to strengthen operational efficiency.



3. RMFB Personnel should enhance self-assessment practices and participate in regular performance reflection activities. Since personnel tend to be more critical of their performance, structured feedback sessions and peer evaluations may help balance internal assessments with actual field outcomes and improve confidence in operational execution.
4. Training and Development Units are encouraged to design targeted training programs focusing on Law Enforcement Operations and areas with relatively lower mean scores. These programs should emphasize practical application, scenario-based exercises, and refresher courses on standard operating procedures to further improve operational consistency.
5. Community Affairs and Public Information Officers should strengthen community engagement initiatives to further bridge the perceptual gap between personnel and residents.
6. Local Government Units and Community residents should continue supporting police operations through coordinated efforts, especially in public safety and civic assistance programs.
7. Future researchers are encouraged to further explore the factors influencing perception gaps between police personnel and community members, particularly focusing on communication strategies, public trust, and service visibility, to provide deeper insights for policy and operational improvements. Moreover, they are advised to widen the scope or locale of the study by including other regions or jurisdictions to allow for broader comparisons and more comprehensive findings.

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