

6th OESPA Family Conference and PA-Wide Information Dissemination/Advocacy

The OACESPA held a conference on September 23-25, 2019, at the El Cielito Hotel, Makati City.

Forty-three participants from the OESPA officers, NCOs, and civilian employees of the Philippine Army Major Units (PAMUs) from all over the Philippines attended the event as part of the Philippine Army's (PA) commitment to unceasingly improve the integrity in the PA.

The 3-day conference is a series of lectures, workshops, and participative consultations which aims to disseminate and update skills and information to the different OESPA officers in the PA. The event served as a platform for both soldiers and civilian employees alike, to share their ideas and learn with one another on the subject matter. Furthermore, through the invited speakers, soldiers and civilian employees were able to grasp different perspectives through the lens of an expert.

The key speakers that were invited are Engr. Nenita A Dela Cruz, Graft Investigation Officer; Ms. Lea Rosemary Liban, Graft Investigation Officer II; Atty. Mary Antonette Ordoña Graft Prevention Officer II; Major Jacinta D. Versoza, the Chief, Intelligence and Investigation Branch of OACESPA, and Ms. Marilyn M. Payumo, a registered psychologist and psychometrist.

The conference commenced with a speech by the OACESPA Executive Officer, LTC HARON S AKAZ. According to him, "As army soldiers, we should occupy the moral high ground, as protectors of the people, we are expected to possess ethical values, and as soldiers of the state, we are expected to be accountable for all our actions." The conference tackled numerous topics spanning from corruption, family, and the Anti- Red Tape Authority Act. One of the key takeaways of the event was the issue of corruption. According to Ms. Lea Rosemary Liban, there is of great importance in understanding the root causes of corruption in creating an ethical and moral organization. Additionally, she then introduced the formula for corruption which is: when opportunity and reward for corruption are high, and there is little possibility of detection and penalty, then corruption occurs. Indeed, before solving corruption we must first delve deeper into the situation and the motivations behind it.

The OACESPA continues its mission in developing mechanisms to efficiently address corruption and domestic-cases within its domain in the PA. A fragment of this attempt is to establish different workshops, activities, and conferences. These mechanisms may seem simple, but it can transform the entire PA to become a world class army if all soldiers are committed to following the prescribed ethical standards.