

## PHILIPPINES

1. Passengers. See the DOD Foreign Clearance Guide available at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>. From the left column select Pacific, South Asia, and Indian Ocean and then Philippines.
2. Cargo.
  - a. Government Cargo. The Government of the Philippines exempts from all kinds of taxes all military personnel assigned to the US Embassy, Manila, and accredited with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Cargo arriving is subject to customs clearance prior to release from the port. The US Embassy in Manila prepares a Certificate of Tax Exemption and a Letter of Guaranty for submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), together with a copy of the Airway Bill or BL and an invoice or packing list. The shipment must be consigned to the US Embassy in Manila. The recipient agency or person will be indicated as the secondary recipient. The documents are then forwarded to the Bureau of Customs and processed by a licensed customs broker to release the shipment. Expect two-three working days for processing.
  - b. Shipments being sent to the Philippines in support of the RP-US Balikatan Joint Exercises are also being supported by the Embassy so long as the shipments are endorsed by any military agency at the Embassy (such as JUSMAG, CPRP, Defense Attache Office (DAO), NRCC and others). It is important that shipping documents address the US Embassy, Manila, For: Balikatan Exercise (Name of person or office).
  - c. For cargo exiting the Republic of the Philippines, the US Embassy prepares an exit clearance to declare the shipment tax at the port through the DFA and Customs.
  - d. The Transportation Unit of the GSO at the US Embassy, Manila, can provide additional information on customs laws in the Philippines. Phone number: (63-2) 523-1001 extensions 2813 or 2796. FAX number: (63-2) 831-0631.
  - e. Personal Property. Personal property shipments are subject to customs clearance prior to release from the port. The member/employee will be physically present in the country and accredited with the DFA prior to the preparation of the Certificate of Tax Exemption. The arrival of the HHG or UB will coincide with or follow the member/employee's arrival. Expect processing time to be 10-15 working days for HHG and two-three days for UB.
  - f. POVs are also subject to customs clearance prior to release from the port. As with HHG and UB, the member/employee must be in the country and accredited before the US Embassy prepares the importation request with the DFA. Upon receipt of approval, a Free-Entry for Motor Vehicle is then submitted to the DFA together with the BL. Expect five working days at the DFA, five working days with Customs, and another five for the broker to release and deliver the shipment to the Embassy. Importation of right-hand-drive cars is prohibited.
  - g. Firearms/Weapons. Importation of firearms into the country is restricted. Exception is being granted if the Philippine National Police Firearms and Explosives Division and/or Philippine Armed Forces of the Philippines provide an importation permit.
  - h. Security and law enforcement. The Republic of the Philippines prohibits the importation of gunpowder, dynamite, ammunition, other explosives, and firearms; marijuana, opium, or other narcotics or synthetic drugs; and right-hand-drive cars.
3. Modes of Shipment
  - a. Military Air. Military shipment (air or sea) typically does not require customs clearance because the arrival of the vessel or carrier is usually coordinated between the US Forces and

the Armed Forces of the Philippines. These shipments do not pass through the usual commercial terminals or ports where customs offices are located.

- b. Commercial Air. As stated above (Cargo), shipments inbound by commercial air require customs clearance prior to release from the port. The Airway Bill and packing list are needed to complete processing. This applies whether the cargo is civilian or military.
  - c. Ocean Vessel Shipments. As stated above (Cargo), requires customs clearance prior to release from the port. The BL and packing list are needed to complete processing. This applies whether the cargo is civilian or military.
4. Personal Property. See the PPCIG at <https://tops.ppcigweb.sddc.army.mil/ppcig/menu/home/warning.do>. Select Query CG tab, select County Instructions tab, at the Country drop down box under Custom Selection, select Philippines, submit. Click on the detail icon on the upper right hand side to review shipping requirements.