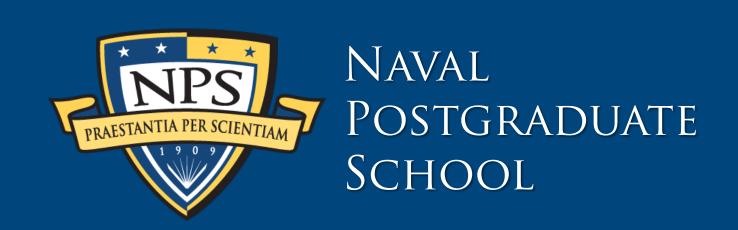
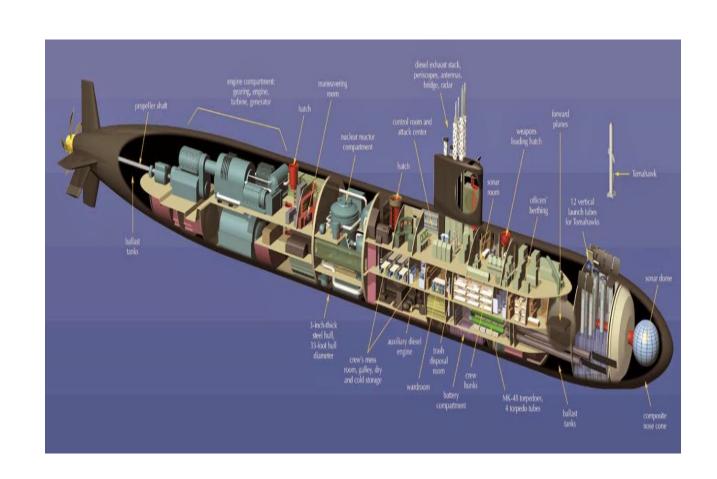
Benchmarking Philippine Submarine Acquisition Readiness: Lessons from U.S. Major Capability Framework



Abstract

The Philippines is preparing to acquire its first submarine, a capability that requires complex management, technical expertise, and an established system. However, the Philippines' current procurement system is rooted in the Republic Act 9184 and the Defense System of Management (DSOM), which is considered a rigid, rule-based system that prevents the country from supporting advanced and complex acquisition programs like submarines. This study evaluates the Philippines' readiness by benchmarking its acquisition process against the United States Department of Defense Major Capability Acquisition (MCA) framework. The author uses the qualitative comparative case design to analyze the U.S. Virginia-class submarine program and the Philippines Jose Rizal-class frigate through process mapping and root cause analysis (RCA). The findings reveal that the U.S. MCA framework, such as milestone-driven acquisition, life cycle management, and workforce development, promotes efficiency and accountability, while the Philippines' procurement act (RA 9184) and DSOM cause procurement delays and weak integration across the system. This study recommends adopting a milestone-based approach, streamlining authority, institutionalizing the workforce, and strengthening the sustainment program. These results can guide future researchers in evaluating other defense related programs and developing reforms to strengthen acquisition readiness to support maritime security.

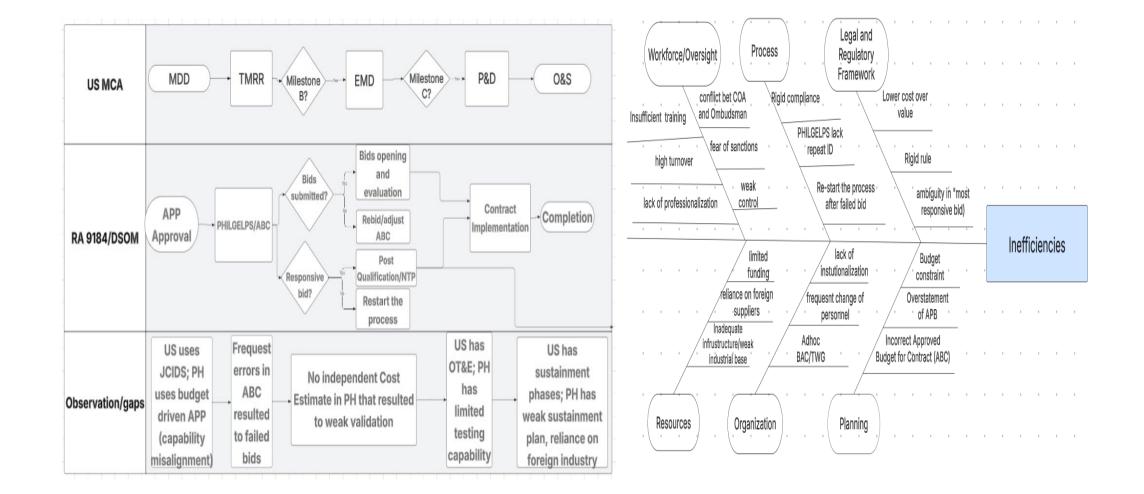


Methods

- Qualitative
- Comparative Case Analysis
- Process Mapping
- Root Cause Analysis (RCA)

Results & Impact

- Reduces cost, schedule, and sustainment risk for complex naval programs.
- Guide defense acquisition reform for the Philippine submarine procurement
- Strengthens institutional and workforce readiness for high-value acquisitions.
- Supports development of a credible long-term maritime deterrent.
- Provides a benchmarking model for future defense modernization studies.



Future Research

- Development of submarine acquisition cost models
- Application of a simulation approach like Monte Carlo simulation
- Assessment of the Philippines' capability in developing an industrial base
- Consideration for the geopolitical environment that creates changes in both alliance relationships and defense capabilities in the South China Sea region





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