

Evaluating Community-Based Policing Effectiveness: Performance and Public Satisfaction of Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPAT) in Tudela, Misamis Occidental

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ABSTRACT

Effective community-based security systems are essential in maintaining peace and order, particularly in areas where formal law enforcement presence is limited or insufficient. This quantitative study followed a descriptive design to determine the performance of a Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPAT) unit in Misamis Occidental. The respondents were 120 residents within the barangay who were of legal age. The results were analyzed using mean and standard deviation as well as chi-square to determine statistical differences across demographics namely, age, sex, and residency years. The findings show that BPATs were rated excellent in five aspects particularly: patrolling, community engagement, basic self-defense skills, crowd control skills, and recording and reporting. Based on quantitative analysis, chi-square values revealed that age had a statistically significant relationship with community engagement. However, sex had no statistically significant values towards any of these aspects. In contrast, years of residency also had a statistical relationship with crowd control skills and recording and reporting. Lastly, the study concluded that the local community residents were very highly satisfied with the BPATs' performance. This study recommended that various training programs be conducted to BPAT units to further improve their performance in peacekeeping.

Keywords: Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs); Community Engagement; Community Policing; Crowd Management; Demographic Factors; Incident Reporting; Patrol Operations; Police Performance Evaluation; Public Safety Perception; Quantitative Descriptive Research.

1.0. Introduction

In the Philippines, Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) are a critical part of grassroots level peacekeeping, tasked with ensuring safety, mediating conflicts, and supporting law enforcement where formal police presence may be inadequate (Doquilla et al., 2023). BPAT officers were also noted to be highly knowledgeable and visible in securing their respective communities through Ronda or patrol activity where they also performed intelligence monitoring during the pandemic (Gupit and Cuevas, 2022). They have been proven by locals as essential in responding quickly to issues ranging from petty crimes to organized threats which are attributed to their close ties with the community where their work also extends to conflict mediation, violence prevention, and community development (Ayeo-eo, 2025).

Despite the advantages brought about by the BPATs, they often face significant challenges, such as limited resources, inadequate training, and inconsistent support from Local Government Units (LGUs) in varying areas of the Philippines (Albay, 2021; Wakat, 2024). The lack of clear performance assessment standards has caused discrepancies across barangays where some BPATs benefit from well-resourced and trained teams, while others struggle to address local security concerns effectively.

1.1. Study Objectives

This study primarily aimed to assess the level of performance of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT) within the second district of Misamis Occidental as perceived by the barangay residents. Specifically, the study answered specific research questions:

- 1) What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - a. Age
 - b. Sex
 - c. Years of Residency
- 2) What are the performance levels of BPAT members assessed in terms of:
 - a. Patrolling
 - b. Community Engagement
 - c. Basic Self Defense Skills
 - d. Crowd Control Skills
 - e. Recording and Reporting
- 3) Is there a statistically significant difference in the performance of the BPAT officers as perceived by the community when they are grouped according to their profile?

2.0. Methodology

This quantitative study utilized a descriptive design to assess the performance level of BPATs in terms of (1) patrolling skills, (2) community engagement, (3) basic self-defense skills, (4) crowd control skills, and (5) recording and reporting. It was conducted in a barangay within the Municipality of Tudela, Misamis Occidental where BPAT personnel are actively engaged in community peacekeeping duties. A sample of 120 residents were taken as respondents to the study. Demographic data such as age, sex, and years of residency were also obtained from the residents.

To analyze the data, statistical tools such as mean and standard deviation were used to assess the performance of the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team (BPAT). Moreover, Chi-square was used in treating data on the significant differences on the performance of the BPAT members as their skills during duty as perceived by the community when they are grouped according to their demographic profile.

3.0. Literature Review

In the Philippines, Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs) are also called various names that vary by region. Names of the unit go by Barangay Police Security Officer (BPSO) or Tanod in Maintaining Peace and Order (TMPO) and other similar names, but all have a common function of ensuring safety, mediating conflicts, and supporting law enforcement at the grassroots level (Doquilla et al., 2023). For the sake of uniformity of understanding, these units shall be called as “peacekeeping units” to avoid confusion. A similar study (Habiatan and Asuncion, 2025) investigated the peace and order and public safety implementation in Santo Tomas, Isabela where their results showed that barangay tanods are highly functional and comply with the standard set of operations.

However, in another region of Isabela, another study (Sumad-on, 2020) barangay tanods are deemed moderately effective due to improper functioning and duty assignment during patrol. It was also cited that they lack the sufficient surveillance to detect surreptitious persons and identification of potential hazards to the barangays as well as equipment and vehicles. These shortcomings are further supported by a training needs study (Buting et al., 2025) where it stated that crime prevention and public safety, Barangay Police Officer operations and other judicial processes, gender-sensitivity, basic emergency and rescue responses, and information drives against all forms of crimes are key areas where these units need training.

While it is acknowledged that there are barriers such as limited resources and challenges in communication that decrease their performance, it is noted that different settings of the same performance assessment cite varying needs as well as different levels of support from their respective local government units (LGUs). Peacebuilding is a never-ending effort to create a peaceful environment that challenges actors and sectors at all levels where it is often context-bound and can vary among actors (Andales-Escano, 2015).

The variation in results of peacekeeping unit performances across different areas and timeframes in the Philippines highlight the multifaceted and complex nature of local peacekeeping and how LGU support is crucial to their success. It is well acknowledged that there are a multitude of factors affecting peacekeeping units and even more adds to the complexity of their operating nature. This study also aims to provide relevant insights and contribute to more literature on these peacekeeping units and their contextual operations.

4.0. Results and Discussion

4.1. Respondents' Demographic Profile

Table 1 presents the respondents' profiles by sex, age, and years of residency, providing an overview of the residential profile of the barangay residents. In terms of sex, the sample was prevalently male with the most prominent age group being in the ages of 22 to 50. This suggests that the age distribution of the barangay is within the middle, working ages. The least age bracket is those between 18 to 21. Most of the residents have lived in the barangay for more than ten years. This implies that most of the residents are well-seasoned with the activities of the barangay.

Table 1. Respondents' Demographic Profile

Profile	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	64	53.30%
	Female	56	46.70%
Age	18 to 21	1	0.80%
	22 to 50	79	65.80%
	51 to 60	23	19.20%
	60 above	17	14.20%

Years of Residency	Less than 3 years	11	9.20%
	Less than 5 years	34	28.30%
	Less than 8 years	10	8.30%
	More than 10 years	65	54.20%

4.2. BPAT Performance

Table 2 shows the BPAT performance as per the constructs of this study, namely patrolling skills, community engagement, basic self-defense skills, crowd control skills, and recording and reporting. The BPAT performance holds a strength in their patrolling skills which holds the highest score. On the other hand, the BPAT performance ratings scored least in the recording and reporting. These results imply that the BPAT unit of the concerned setting could use more training for the recording and reporting while maintaining their patrolling skill towards the barangay residents.

Table 2. BPAT Personnel Performance

Construct	BPAT Performance		
	Mean	SD	Remark
BPAT Patrolling Skills	4.75	0.338	Excellent
BPAT Community Engagement	4.71	0.337	Excellent
BPAT Basic Self-Defense Skills	4.56	0.446	Excellent
BPAT Crowd Control Skills	4.67	0.398	Excellent
BPAT Recording and Reporting	4.51	0.440	Excellent
Grand Mean	4.64	0.645	Excellent

Note: Excellent (4.24 – 5.00), Very satisfactory (3.43 – 4.23), Satisfactory (2.62 – 3.42), Fair (1.81 – 2.61), Poor (1.00-1.80)

When concerning the BPAT patrolling skills, the community residents are highly satisfied with the BPATs' performance levels when it comes to their patrolling skills, taking note of their conduct of regular daytime patrols with a lower end on the immediate action to incidents. Still, there is room for improvement for the BPAT units, especially concerning their response capabilities during patrol. These include their response to incidents, crime-related area patrols, and their overall list of duties as BPAT members. The BPATs can maintain peace and order and respond the soonest with the level of patrolling skills they currently have. Furthermore, the residents of the barangays are highly satisfied with the BPATs' performance levels when it comes to their community engagement. BPATs can undergo more training to better understand the needs of their community and create better

engagement activities to enliven the locality even more. The BPATs are highly engaged with the community such that they can inspire other members to participate in camaraderie and companionship in barangay safety.

Moreover, the barangay residents are still highly satisfied with the BPATs' performance in basic self-defense skills. This is noting the room for improvement for the actuality on the defense of themselves as it scored the lowest in this construct. The BPATs can maintain peace and order using basic self-defense skills upon utter necessity but cannot totally avoid collateral damage when conflicts arise. Additionally, the residents of the community are highly satisfied with the BPATs' crowd control skills. Individual variations are present and are attributed to by those directly affected by crowded situations. They can assist, resolve conflicts, and coordinate effectively when managing crowded situations though panic and confusion are inevitable outcomes of crowds.

Lastly, the locals are still highly satisfied with the BPATs' performance with their recording and reporting. However, the totality of response scores may be attributed to by minor inconsistencies brought about by small errors of account. The BPATs are competent with the input, storage, and safekeeping of important information with errors kept to a minimum as well as the communication of its content when the need arises or when it is requested.

4.3. Significant Difference Between the BPAT Performance Levels when Grouped by Age

Table 3 analysis shows that BPAT performance varies across most skill areas when grouped by age. Differences are evident in patrolling, self-defense, crowd control, and recording and reporting, suggesting that performance in these areas is concentrated among certain members rather than evenly distributed within the unit. Studies support that age, maturity, and experience influence peacekeeping effectiveness, with younger personnel often showing lower performance and older members contributing to greater stability and capability (Sumad-on, 2020; Anajao et al., 2026; Austria-Cruz, 2019; Lacanilao, 2021; Monte et al., 2023). In contrast, community engagement appears relatively consistent across personnel, likely due to strong community values and established coordination with residents, which enhance trust and responsiveness (Alviola, 2025; Anajao, 2026), although inconsistencies among younger groups have also been noted (Sumad-on, 2020).

Overall, while BPATs are rated highly in performance, the results suggest that effectiveness in several areas depends on a limited number of skilled individuals. This highlights the need for improved teamwork and capacity-building to ensure more uniform competence across all aspects of peacekeeping (Anajao et al., 2026; Alviola, 2026; Austria-Cruz, 2019).

Table 3. Test of Significant Differences when Grouped by Age

Variables	χ^2	p-value	Remarks
Age and Patrolling Skills	5.31	0.505	Not significant
Age and Community Engagement Skills	8.27	0.041*	Significant
Age and Basic Self-defense	9.01	0.173	Not significant

Skills			
Age and Crowd Control Skills	10.5	0.104	Not significant
Age and Recording and Reporting	7.94	0.243	Not significant

Note: * $p < 0.05$ (significant); ** $p < 0.01$ (highly significant)

4.4. Significant Difference Between the BPAT Performance Levels when Grouped by Sex

Table 4 indicates that BPAT performance, when grouped by sex, is perceived differently across all skill areas, including patrolling, community engagement, self-defense, crowd control, and recording and reporting. These variations suggest a divide in how performance is viewed rather than consistent assessment across male and female perspectives. Studies note that BPAT personnel are often predominantly male, which may influence both capability and perception, with reported inconsistencies in patrolling and limitations in handling specialized cases such as women and children (Sumad-on, 2020; Anajao et al., 2026; Lacanilao, 2021).

In terms of self-defense and crowd control, differences in perception may stem from varying levels of experience and the recognized importance of gender diversity in managing sensitive and high-risk situations (Anajao et al., 2026; Lacanilao, 2021; Monte et al., 2023). While prior studies highlight generally good performance in areas such as reporting and dispute resolution, they also indicate no clear link between sex and operational effectiveness (Monte et al., 2023; Saligan, 2018).

Overall, although BPATs are rated highly, perceptions of their performance differ based on sex, highlighting the need for more inclusive training, improved coordination, and balanced competency across all members to ensure consistent and effective peacekeeping.

Table 4. Test of Significant Differences when Grouped by Sex

Variables	χ^2	p -value	Remarks
Sex and Patrolling Skills	1.10	0.577	Not significant
Sex and Community Engagement Skills	1.22	0.268	Not significant
Sex and Basic Self-defense Skills	1.39	0.499	Not significant
Sex and Crowd Control Skills	1.29	0.524	Not significant
Sex and Recording and Reporting	1.54	0.463	Not significant

Note: * $p < 0.05$ (significant); ** $p < 0.01$ (highly significant)

4.5. Significant Difference Between the BPAT Performance Levels when Grouped by Residency Years

Table 5 shows that residents' length of residency influences how BPAT performance is perceived across most skill areas. Differences are observed in patrolling, community engagement, and self-defense, indicating that residents

with varying years of residency hold differing views of these functions. Prior studies suggest that inconsistencies in patrol practices and varying levels of satisfaction with BPAT services may contribute to these differing perceptions (Sumad-on, 2020; Saligan et al., 2018). Variations in perceived self-defense capability may also reflect differing expectations or experiences among residents, despite generally moderate confidence reported in the literature (Anajao et al., 2026).

In contrast, perceptions of crowd control and recording and reporting appear more consistent across residency groups, likely due to their visibility during community events and their standardized role in handling incidents and disputes. Studies support generally high satisfaction in these areas, while also noting operational challenges such as limited resources and information dissemination (Monte et al., 2023; Anajao et al., 2026), with some contrasting findings of inconsistency in other contexts (Sumad-on, 2020).

Overall, while BPAT performance is rated highly, differences in perception across residency groups highlight the influence of familiarity and experience within the community, suggesting the need for consistent practices and strengthened operational capacity to ensure uniform public confidence.

Table 5. Test of Significant Differences when Grouped by Residency Years

Variables	χ^2	<i>p-value</i>	Remarks
Residency Years and Patrolling Skills	14.7	0.066	Not significant
Residency Years and Community Engagement Skills	1.96	0.744	Not significant
Residency Years and Basic Self-defense Skills	10.2	0.250	Not significant
Residency Years and Crowd Control Skills	16	0.043*	Significant
Residency Years and Recording and Reporting	33.6	<0.001**	Highly significant

Note: * $p < 0.05$ (significant); ** $p < 0.01$ (highly significant)

5.0. Conclusion

The results showed that the profile of the respondents were mostly within the age bracket of 22 to 50 years old holding a mean age of 41.70 years old. Moreover, they were prevalently male in sex ($n=64$) as compared to female ($n=56$). Furthermore, they were prevalently holding a residency of more than 10 years with a mean of 9.792 years of residency indicating an older population for the barangays. The overall rating of the residents towards the BPATs' performance was excellent, implying their very high satisfaction. Summing it all up, the BPATs overall performance was excellent noting a very high level of satisfaction. Moreover, the residents also agreed with the findings and were enlightened to know the results. Future suggestions include:

1. BPAT units are encouraged to utilize the findings of this study as a benchmark to make better decisions and perform actions more responsively. It would enable them to cater to the barangay residents' needs with ease.

2. Moreover, residents of Misamis Occidental are also encouraged to continue the peace, camaraderie, and cooperation as found in this study. Peace is not an end, but rather, a means for a community to prosper.
3. Local government units (LGUs) are encouraged to conduct more capacity and relevant training for BPAT units and their personnel to further enable them to respond effectively to community needs.
4. Further research is encouraged to focus on assessing the effectiveness of targeted training programs, particularly in areas identified with relative weaknesses such as recording and reporting, to determine their impact on enhancing the competencies and overall performance of BPAT personnel.
5. Future studies are also encouraged that constructs related to contemporary societal aspects such as gender and development (GAD), violence against women and children (VAWC).

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All the authors have declared that no competing financial, professional or personal interests exist.

Consent for publication

All the authors contributed to the manuscript and consented to the publication of this research work.

Availability of data and material

Supplementary information is available from the authors upon reasonable request.

Institutional Review Board Statement

Not Applicable

Ethical Approval

Not Applicable

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Declaration of Artificial Intelligence

This study utilized artificial intelligence (AI) tools solely for the purpose of refining language, improving clarity, and summarizing key concepts. The AI assistance was limited to enhancing grammar, coherence, and overall readability of the manuscript, as well as condensing sections of text without altering their original meaning.

All core components of the research, including the research design, data collection, analysis, interpretation of results, and conclusions, were developed independently by the researchers. The authors take full responsibility for the accuracy, integrity, and originality of the work presented.

No AI tools were used to generate data, fabricate results, or replace critical academic judgment. All sources and references cited in this study were reviewed and verified by the researchers.

This declaration is made in accordance with ethical standards for transparency in the use of AI in academic writing.

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