



Serving the people. Securing the land.

[oacpa.army2012@gmail.com](mailto:oacpa.army2012@gmail.com)

# OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**19 April 2016**

**Tuesday**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 19 APRIL 2016

PAGE NR.	TITLE	WRITER	NEWSPAPER
1	Weather Forecast		PDI p. 14
<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>			
2-4	Is Duterte the right choice? 4 bishops ask	Jocelyn Uy	PDI p.A1
<b>ARMY RELATED NEWS</b>			
5	3 Abu Sayyaf camps seized in Basilan	Roel Pareño	Phil. Star p.14
6	Military seizes Sayyaf camp in Basilan	Elena Aben	Mla. Bulletin p.2
7	Gov't troops seize another ASG camp in Basilan	PNA	Mla. Bulletin p.13
8	Troops seize 3 <sup>rd</sup> Abu Sayyaf camp	Victor Reyes	Malaya p.B6
9	Army detachment stormed, guns seized	Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca	People's Journal p.13
10	COUNTER-TERRORIST UNIT II Colo. Alexander Macario is New Commander of the LRR		<a href="http://www.dwdd.com">www.dwdd.com</a>
11	Army vows intensified operations vs lawlws groups in Davao		<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>
<b>AFP RELATED NEWS</b>			
12	NPA rebels seize in Davao City cops	Edith Regalado	Phil. Star p.14
13	NPA's abduct 5 policemen in Davao City	Alexander Lopez	Mla. Bulletin p.13
14	NPA captures 2 militias, 5 policemen in Davao	Al Jacinto	Mla. Times p.A7
15-16	Chinese military plane lands on disputed reef		PDI p.A1
<b>EDITORIAL / OPINION</b>			
17	PH troops being used as 'cannon fodder'	Dodo Dulay	Mla. Times p.A1
<b>ONLINE NEWS</b>			
18	Abu Sayyaf eager to cash in		<a href="http://www.thestar.com">www.thestar.com</a>
19	Balikatan Exercise 2016 in WV		<a href="http://www.visayandailystar.com">www.visayandailystar.com</a>
20	Soldiers assures security support in delivering poll paraphernalia, vote		<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.


	counting machines		
21	DND to acquire countermeasures munitions for FA-50PHS		<a href="http://www.pna.gov.ph">www.pna.gov.ph</a>

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.


19 April 2016

# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

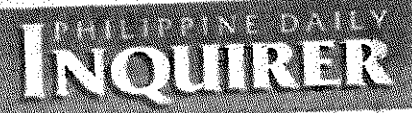
Page: A14



**PANAHON TV**



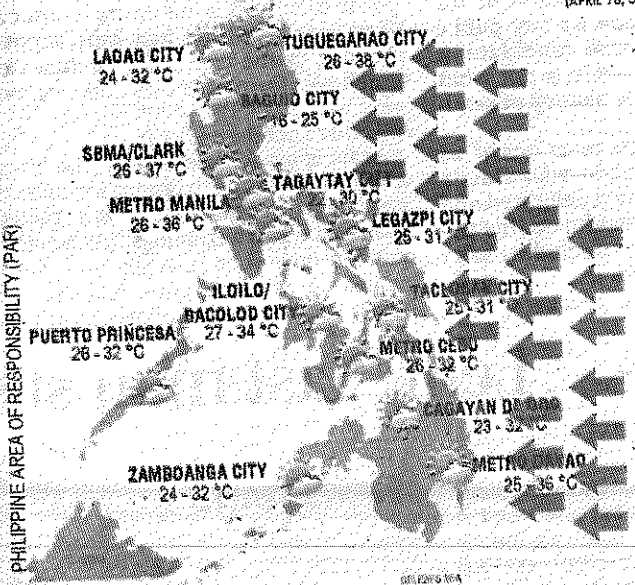
**www.panahon.tv**



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 19, 2016 | TUESDAY

EASTERLIES AFFECTING THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE COUNTRY (APRIL 18, 5:00 PM)







<b>SUNRISE</b>	<b>SUNSET</b>
5:40 AM	6:11 PM
<b>MOONRISE</b>	<b>MOONSET</b>
3:59 PM	3:41 AM
<b>FIRST QUARTER</b> APR 16 1:58 AM	<b>FULL MOON</b> APR 22 1:26 PM
<b>LOW TIDE</b> 2:52 AM 0.12 Meter	<b>HIGH TIDE</b> 8:52 PM 0.69 Meter

Partly cloudy skies  
Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

<b>METRO MANILA</b>	27-36°C	26-36°C	<b>TAGAYTAY</b>	23-30°C	23-28°C	<b>TACLOBAN</b>	25-32°C	24-32°C
<b>TUGUEGARAO</b>	26-37°C	25-38°C	<b>LEGAZPI</b>	26-32°C	25-32°C	<b>CAGAYAN DE ORO</b>	22-33°C	22-33°C
<b>LAOAG</b>	24-32°C	23-33°C	<b>PUERTO PRINCESA</b>	25-32°C	26-33°C	<b>METRO DAVAO</b>	26-36°C	27-35°C
<b>BAGUIO</b>	17-28°C	17-27°C	<b>ILOILO/BACOLOD</b>	26-34°C	25-33°C	<b>ZAMBOANGA</b>	25-33°C	25-34°C
<b>SBMA/CLARK</b>	26-36°C	25-36°C	<b>METRO CEBU</b>	26-33°C	25-33°C			

Watch PANAHON.TV everyday at 5:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).



**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

14 April 2016

**INQUIRER**

Page: A1

# Is Duterte the right choice? 4 bishops ask

## Filipinos told: Vote for best candidate

By Jocelyn R. Uy  
and Ador Vincent S. Mayol  
*Inquirer Visayas*

FOUR Catholic bishops yesterday raised questions about the fitness of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to lead the country after the presidential candidate joked about an Australian lay missionary who was raped during a hostage crisis in 1989.

The head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) asked Filipino voters to judge for themselves whether Duterte was the right choice for the presidency.

To help them decide, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas shared on his Facebook account a link to the controversial video clip of the mayor making a joke about the rape and killing of 36-year-old

IS DUTERTE/A15

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel. no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285 5295

From page A1

Australian Jacqueline Hamill.

At a campaign rally in Quezon City on April 12, Duterte spoke about the killing of Hamill and four other missionaries in his city in 1989. She and other women hostages also were raped.

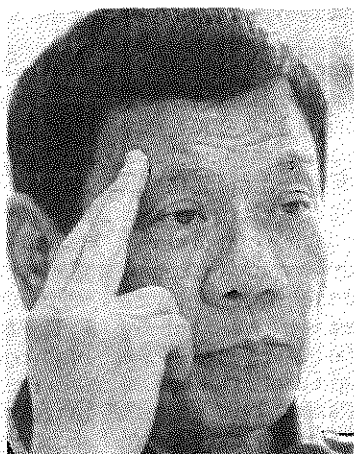
Duterte said he was angered because Hamill was so beautiful and the prisoners took turns raping her when "the mayor should have been first."

"They did it ahead of the mayor. Kill them all," the mayor recalled saying during the 1989 hostage-taking inside the Davao Metrodiscom headquarters.

On his social media account on Sunday, Villegas said: "Judge for yourself if this is the right choice. I will keep my personal judgment to myself. This video can help you see."

Duterte's comments drew outrage from his rivals and the public, particularly on social media.

Australian Ambassador Amanda Gorely tweeted late Sunday that "rape and murder should never be joked about or trivialized." She added that "violence



**DUTERTE**

against women and girls is unacceptable anytime, anywhere."

Amid the furor, Duterte admitted that he uttered those words and said sorry for the "gutter language." But he said he just wanted to express his anger about the heinous crime.

### Elect decent leader

In Cebu City, Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma advised Filipinos to elect a leader decent enough to face leaders of other nations.

"When we elect people in power, we expect them to serve, but at the same time they should



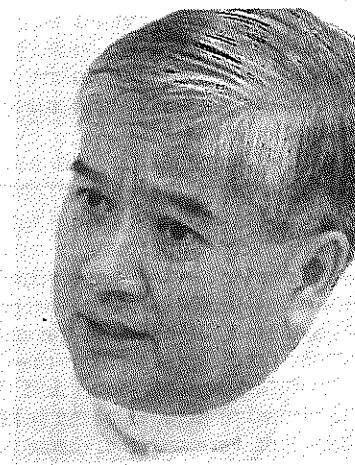
**PALMA**

also relate with other people in many parts of world," Palma told reporters after presiding over a Mass and diaconate ordination at Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral on Monday.

Palma was asked to comment on Duterte's controversial remarks about the gang rape of Hamill.

"What if this kind of joke will spread to other people from different parts of the world? Can we feel at ease with that kind of person?" the 66-year-old prelate asked.

Palma, a former CBCP presi-



**VILLEGAS**

dent, said it would be up to the electorate to decide whether to vote for a person like Duterte.

"Are we happy with what he (Duterte) said? Do we agree with it? Some say it's OK. Other say otherwise," he said.

### Discern, decide

"The future of our country depends on the votes we make. The electorate should discern and decide. That is where the power of the ballots come," Palma added.

He encouraged the faithful on Election Day to pray for an

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285 5295

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.



With a report from Estrella Torres

9 April 2016



Page: 14

### 3 Abu Sayyaf camps in Basilan seized

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Government troops have overrun three Abu Sayyaf camps in Basilan since Thursday, an official said yesterday.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., ground spokesman for the military offensive, said Army rangers seized the Abu Sayyaf lairs in Barangay Baguindan and Sitio Bayoko in Tipo-Tipo town on Sunday and Saturday, respectively, and in Barangay Amaloy in Ungkaya Pukan town on Thursday.

Tan said soldiers also recovered several components of improvised bombs, war materials, medical paraphernalia and three sacks of rice at the camps.

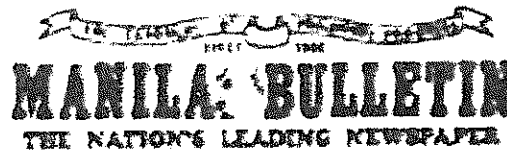
"There was no engagement because the bandits were fleeing," he said. "What we are doing is limiting their space until we corner them."

The military offensive was in response to the clashes two weeks ago that left 18 soldiers dead and 56 wounded.

– Roel Pareño



19 April 2016



Page: 2

# Military seizes Sayyaf camp in Basilan

By ELENA L. ASEN

Government forces captured another camp of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) as pursuit operations continue against those responsible for the death of 18 soldiers in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan province.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP - Wesmincom), said troops from the 3rd Scout Ranger Battalion under Lt. Col. Elmer Suderio recovered bomb components and war materiel from the area.

The camp, located at Barangay Baguidan in Tipo-Tipo town, was seized by the Army Scout Ranger around 7:15 a.m. Sunday.

"The troops were conducting combat operations when they recovered the IED components, five liters of gasoline, assorted medical supplies, three sacks of rice and five laminated sacks in the area," said Tan.

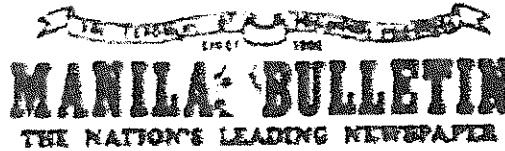
He added that this is the third ASG camp captured by military forces after the bloody encounter last April 9 which resulted in the death of 18 soldiers. Fifty-three others were wounded.

Tan stressed that government offensives against the ASG continue and has so far resulted in the death of 38 militants, with three bodies recovered.

Among the recovered bodies were that of Moroccan terrorist and bomb expert Mohammad Khatatab, who was in the country to organize and unite local lawless armed elements and kidnap-for-ransom groups in Mindanao to link with a Middle East terrorist organization, as well as to spread radicalism and extremism.

It will be recalled that troops from the AFP's Task Group Basilan were conducting operations in Sitio Bayoko, Barangay Baguindan, Tipo-Tipo, Basilan when they encountered approximately 120 ASG bandits under Furuji Indama and Isnilon Hapilon.

April 2016



Page: 13

## Gov't troops seize another ASG camp in Basilan

(PNA) – Government troops have captured another Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) camp, and recovered several components of an improvised explosive device (IED) during ongoing operations in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan Sunday.

This took place 7:15 a.m. at Barangay Baguidan.

Major Filemon Tan, Western Mindanao Command spokesperson, said it was the third ASG camp captured by military forces after the bloody clash last April 9 which resulted in the death of 18 soldiers and wounding of 53 others.

Aside from the IED components, assorted war material were also captured by troops under the Third Scout Ranger Battalion

commanded by Lt. Col. Elmer Suderio.

"Said troops were conducting combat operations when they recovered the IED components; five liters of gasoline; assorted medical paraphernalia; three sacks of rice; and five laminated sacks in the area," Tan added.

This developed as Tan said government offensives against the ASG has so far resulted in the death of 38 bandits with three bodies recovered so far.

Among the the bodies recovered was that of Moroccan terrorist and bomber Mohammad Khattab who is said to be acting as a conduit between a "Middle East terrorist organization."

19 April 2016

**Malaya**  
The National Newspaper

Page: B6

# Troops seize 3rd Abu Sayyaf camp

BY VICTOR REYES

SCOUT Rangers seized a camp of the Abu Sayyaf Sunday during pursuit of the group responsible for the death of 18 soldiers during a fierce firefight in Tipo-Tipo town in Basilan last April 9.

Maj. Filemon Tan, spokesman of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said Army soldiers occupied the camp without any firefight as the bandits had fled before the troops arrived.

Tan said the camp, which is located in Barangay Baguindan, was seized by the elite troops at around 7:15 a.m. last Sunday, becoming the third Abu Sayyaf lair to be seized by the military since April 9.

The troops recovered at the scene components of improvised explosive devices, war

materiel, five liters of gasoline, assorted medical paraphernalia, and three sacks of rice, among others.

Tan said the troops saw bloodstains in the camp. He said the place was probably used by the terrorists in treating their comrades who were wounded in earlier clashes with government troops.

Tan said 38 Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the April 9 fighting and in succeeding skirmishes. However, only three bodies were recovered – including that of Moroccan terrorist Mohammad Khattab.

Government forces intensified the operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan following the April 9 incident. Military officials vowed to decimate the group so as not to put to waste the lives of the 18 slain troops.

19 April 2016



Page. 13

**ARMY DETACHMENT STORMED,  
GUNS SEIZED**

SUSPECTED NPA members on Sunday raided a military detachment also in Paquibato District, Davao City.

Armed Forces of the Philippines - Eastern Mindanao Command spokesperson Capt. Roda Leoncito said the rebels stormed the Quiman Anao detachment at Sitio Quiman Anao, Bgy. Salapawan, Paquibato District at 7 a.m. on Sunday.

She said more or less 60 rebels raided the military post manned by Cpl. Sabareza and took away several firearms, including one M16 rifle with 13 magazines and 375 rounds of ammunition, nine M14 rifles with 45 magazines and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, nine garand rifles with 110 clips and 715 rounds of ammunition and four hand grenades.

CAA Mario Cariaman was wounded in the attack.

**With Zaida delos Reyes-Palanca**

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

## **COUNTER-TERRORIST UNIT II Col. Alexander Macario is New Commander of the LRR**

**FORT ANDRES BONIFACIO, Taguig City (DWDD)** – Col. Alexander Macario is designated as the new commander of the Army's Light Reaction Regiment.

According to acting Army spokesperson, Col. Arnulfo Burgos, the Special Operations Command (SOCOM), which has jurisdiction over the LRR, will implement the change of command on April 26 where he will be replacing Col. Danilo Pamonag.

The order was issued last March 21.

Col Macario, a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Sandiwa" Class of 1985, is a well-decorated combat officer whose vast experiences leading people in the field, coupled with his effective leadership qualities, have further honed and prepared him to assume higher command positions."

The LRR, or formerly the Light Reaction Battalion and Light Reaction Company, is the Army's lead counter-terrorist unit based in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija and was formally activated in 2004 with its members trained with American special forces.

It was instrumental in battling the Abu Sayyaf that year and in rescuing American Gracia Burnham from the terrorists, as well as the rescue of an abducted Italian priest in 2007. **AES / MCAG**

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

## **Army vows intensified operations vs lawless groups in Davao**

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 18): Army vows intensified operations vs lawless groups in Davao

**The Army's 10th Infantry (Agila) Division vows to pursue the lawless armed groups (LAGs) responsible for the attack of a military detachment in Sitio Quiman-anon, Barangay Salapawan, Paquibato District, Davao City last Saturday, April 16.**

**In a statement to the media here on Monday, 10th ID commander Major General Rafael Valencia said pursuit operations are already ongoing against the fleeing rebels.**

A civilian and a member of Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) were hurt when the lawless groups attacked and burned the military detachment on Saturday.

**Army 10th ID chief information officer Captain Rhyen Batchar also told reporters here that at least 60 fully armed members of the lawless group New People's Army (NPA) were responsible for the attack.**

Batchar identified the wounded CAFGU member as Mario Carliaman and the civilian as Randy Ramirez.

Both are still undergoing medical treatment for the wounds they sustained during the attack.

**Lt. Col. Louie DS Villanueva, commander of 84th IB operating in the area, said that the lawless groups responsible for the attack were led by a certain Commander Jinggoy.**

Villanueva also assured that the Army will hunt down the perpetrators without let up as massive pursuit operations are already ongoing in the area.

**The New People's Army (NPA) in Southern Mindanao confirmed its 1st Pulang Bagani Command is in custody of the chief of police of Paquibato and four of his officers as Prisoners of War.**

**Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson of the NPA-Regional Operations Command- Southern Mindanao Region, said Police Chief Inspector Leonardo V. Tarungoy, PO3 Rosenie L. Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolph Y. Pacete, PO2 Neil C. Arellano, and PO3 Abdul Azis A. Ali were taken by the rebels following an attack of the 72nd Infantry Battalion CAA detachment at 7:00 am Saturday in Sitio Quimanao, Barangay Salapawan, Paquibato District.**

He said the rebels also seized two 9mm pistols and one .45 caliber pistol from the policemen.

Sanchez disclosed that the police officers were snatched at around 11:30 a.m on Saturday by another unit of the 1st Pulang Bagani rebels who positioned a few hundred meters away from the detachment.

The police officers were reportedly on board a mobile patrol vehicle and took them as prisoners-of-war.

"The POWs will be held in custody pending an investigation for possible war crimes and other crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement," Sanchez said in a press statement sent late Sunday.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=877657>

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

19 April 2016



Page: 14

## NPA rebels seize 5 Davao City cops

DAVAO CITY – New People's Army (NPA) rebels took captive five policemen, including a station commander, in Sitio Singko, Barangay Mapula, Paquibato district in this city on Sunday.

The Eastern Mindanao Command identified the policemen as Chief Inspector Leonardo Tarongoy, chief of Paquibato Station 7; Police Officers 3 Rosennie Cabuenas, Rudolf Paceta and Abdul Aziz Ali, and PO2 Neil Arellano.

The four police officers were responding to a report that NPA rebels had attacked a military detachment in Sitio Quiman-anao in Barangay Salapawan when armed men wearing military uniforms seized them around noon, said Chief Superintendent Wilben Mayor, Philippine National Police (PNP) spokesman.

Militiaman Mario Carlaman and civilian Randy Ramirez were wounded in the attack.

The rebels also took 19 high-powered firearms from the detachment.

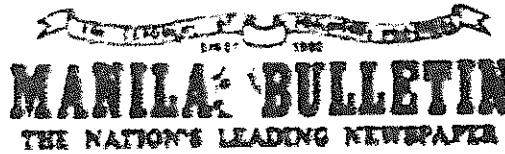
NPA spokesman Rigoberto Sanchez said a unit of the First Pulang Bagani Battalion took the police officers as "prisoners of war."

"The PNP condemns this lawless act against PNP personnel who were only performing their duty to serve and protect the people," Mayor said in a statement.

"We assure the public that the PNP will exhaust all means to bring them back," he added. – Edith Regalado, Mike Frialde, Jaime Laude



April 2016



Page: 13

# NPA's abduct 5 policemen in Davao City

By ALEXANDER D. LOPEZ

**D**AVAO CITY – The New People's Army (NPA) yesterday claimed responsibility for the abduction of five policemen, including the chief of police of Paquibato District here, Saturday.

According to NPA spokesperson for Davao region Rigoberto Sanchez, Chief Insp. Leonardo V. Tarungoy and his men PO3 Rosenie L. Cabunas, PO3 Rudolph Y. Pacete, PO3 Abdul Aziz A. Ali, and PO2 Neil C. Arellano are now in their custody as prisoners of war (POWs) after they were captured at around 11:30 a.m. Saturday in Barangay Salapawan, Paquibato District.

Tarungoy and his men were abducted after armed men blocked the path of the mobile patrol vehicle they were riding in.

Sanchez said the rebels also seized two 9mm pistols and a .45-caliber pistol from the policemen.

"The POWs will be held in custody pending an investigation for possible war crimes and other crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement," Sanchez said.

Reports received by the Manila Bulletin here said that the police officers were on the way to investigate the attack and burning of a military detachment in Sitio Quiman-anon in Salapawan.

Witnesses said the policemen were flagged down by heavily armed NPA rebels and were immediately taken into custody.

Massive military operations are now being conducted in Paquibato District to rescue the cops and pinpoint the location of the rebels.

Earlier reports said that more than 60 NPA rebels attacked and burned the military detachment in Sitio Quiman-anon and carted away 19 firearms after the members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and their comrade abandoned their position.

Tenth Infantry (Agila) Division (10th ID) chief information officer Captain Rhyann Batchar told reporters here that a civilian and one member of CAFGU were hurt during the attack.

In the same statement, Sanchez said the NPA were able to seize 17 firearms that included nine garand rifles, eight M14 rifles, 78 clips of garand ammunition, 30 fully loaded M14 magazines and other military hardware.

"By sheer grit and superior command of the situation, the Red fighters were able to take control of the firefight that lasted less than half an hour. Two members of Civilian Auxiliary Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) surrendered to the raiding Red Fighters while two others fled during the fire fight," Sanchez pointed out.

19 April 2016

## The Manila Times

Page: A7

# NPA captures 2 militias, 5 policemen in Davao

**ZAMBOANGA CITY:** The New People's Army (NPA) in Davao City captured five police officers and two government militias whom they declared "prisoners of war" (POWs) during simultaneous raids on Saturday, a rebel spokesman said.

New People's Army's (NPA) Rigoberto Sanchez said their captives – Chief Inspector Leonardo Tarungoy, Police Officer 3 (PO3) Rosenie Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolph Pacete, PO3 Abdul Azis Ali, and PO2 Neil Arellano – were aboard a patrol vehicle when intercepted by their 1st Pulang Bagani Command.

"The POWs will be held in custody pending an investigation for possible war crimes and other crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement," Sanchez said.

At least 60 NPA guerrillas also stormed and burned the army post under the 72nd Infantry Battalion in the village of Salapawan in Paquibato district and clashed with government forces. Two militias surrendered to the rebels following a firefight while two others managed to escape.

Sanchez said rebel forces seized 17 automatic rifles, three pistols and 30 magazines and munitions and other military hardware.

He said the rebel offensive was launched despite the military's deployment of troops to fighting the NPA forces in Paquibato district.

"The victorious tactical offensive comes at the heels of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' pompous declaration that (the anti-insurgency campaign) Oplan Bayanihan has weakened the armed resistance of the NPA following the death of beloved

Red Commander Leoncio "Ka Parago" Pitao last year."

He added the 1st Pulang Bagani Battalion and all 10 NPA units in the (Davao) region have become even more inspired to wage armed struggle, agrarian revolution, establish the seeds of a socialist government and "squarely defeat the onslaught of heightened and sustained attacks by enemy troops."

"While the entire ruling class presently squabbles in the current reactionary elections, the New People's Army remains steadfast to wage war and address the lasting problems of the Filipino people," Sanchez said.

Meanwhile, investigation is being conducted to determine the administrative lapses of some military personnel following the raid on Saturday.

Capt. Rhyann Batchar, spokesperson of the Army's 10th Infantry Division said the command will also determine the facts behind the Saturday's raid on Civilian Armed Auxiliary (CAA) Detachment in Sitio Quiman Anao of Salapawan village.

He said authorities will look into the likely liabilities of military and CAA personnel at the detachment including possible lapses.

Asked if the military personnel could be liable for abandonment of post, Batchar said that based on information, those in the detachment were forced to leave their post because the military base was already engulfed by fire.

Pending the result of the investigation, the military personnel and CAA have been restricted to the Army's 1003rd Brigade headquarters in Davao del Norte.

**AL JACINTO  
AND FERNAN MARASIGAN**

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF P

Army C

45-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

land.

19 April 2016

PLA DAILY  
**INQUIRER**

Page: 41

# Chinese military plane lands on disputed reef

**BEIJING**—A Chinese military aircraft has for the first time publicly landed at a new airport on an island that China has built in the disputed South China Sea, state media said on Monday, raising the prospect that Beijing could base fighter jets there.

The United States has criticized China's construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea and worries that Beijing plans to use them for military purposes, even though China insists it has no hostile intent.

The runway on Fiery Cross Reef is 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) long and is one of three that China has been building for more than a year by dredging sand up onto reefs and atolls in the Spratly archipelago.

Civilian flights began test runs there in January.

In a front-page story, the official People's Liberation Army (PLA) Daily said a military aircraft on patrol over the South China Sea received on Sunday an emergency call to land at Fiery Cross Reef to evacuate three seriously ill workers.

The three workers were reportedly taken by the transport plane back to Hainan island for treatment, the newspaper said, showing a picture of the aircraft

**CHINESE/A7**

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS - Email: add: oacpa.army2012@gmail.com - Tel: no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285 5285

From page A1

on the ground in Hainan.

The Global Times tabloid said Sunday's flight marked "the first time a Chinese military plane has openly landed on Yongshu-jiao," using the Chinese name for Fiery Cross Reef.

The speed with which the mission was accomplished was a testament to China's long-term policy of patrolling over the South China Sea, according to the tabloid published by the ruling Chinese Communist Party's mouthpiece, People's Daily.

The paper cited a military expert as saying the flight showed the airfield was up to military standards and could see fighter jets based there in the event of war.

The runways would be long enough to handle long-range bombers and transport aircraft as well as Beijing's best jet fighters, giving China a presence deep in the maritime heart of Southeast Asia that it has lacked until now.

## Military drills

China's South China Sea fleets earlier conducted training drills with upgraded methods that resemble actual combat conditions to increase the fleets' combat effectiveness, according to an article published by the PLA Daily on Sunday.

Begun on April 7, the drills include new methods such as training within an electromagnetic environment. Previously, the fleets have also conducted all-weather drills, beyond visibility range training and low-altitude, high-speed exercises to hammer their pilots into shape, the article said.

"To think about special situations in an even more complex way, to make the enemy situation even more dangerous, to make the battlefield environment even more lifelike, is an important path in order for the Navy and Air Force to stick close to the demands of real combat and accelerate its transformative production model for fighting strength," a division commander, Tian Junqing, was quoted as saying.

The article did not specifically say where in the South China Sea the drills took place.

China's naval fleets will further explore 24-hour maritime attack drills, minimum altitude defensive dashes and other military tactics, the article added.

The fleets also will work in coordination with early aerial warnings, surface ships and ground antiaircraft defense, among other branches of the military.

## Complaints

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year. Its Southeast Asian neighbors—the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia—also claim part of the strategic waterway, as does Taiwan.

Vietnam has accused China of threatening the safety of civilian flights by failing to properly inform its aviation authorities of the flights beforehand.

The United States also has complained that the flights raised tensions and has reiterated its calls for a halt to land reclamation and militarization of outposts in the area.

The Philippines, which also claims islands and reefs controlled by China, has also criticized Beijing's moves.

Tensions have risen in the last two years after China transformed Kagitingan (Fiery Cross) Reef and other coral reefs in the Spratly Island chain into islands that could be used to project its military might far from the Chinese mainland.

The new islands in the South China Sea have become a source of tension between Beijing and Washington, which refuses to view them legally as islands entitled to territorial seas and special economic zones.

While the United States is not a claimant state, Washington says it has a national interest in the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea and in freedom of navigation in waters that are critical for world trade. *Reports from Reuters and AP*



**SHOW OF POWER** An FA-18 jet fighter lands on the USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier in the South China Sea on April 15, one of several US ships conducting joint patrols in the South China Sea with the Philippines.

55 Local: 5285, 5285

9 April 2016

The Manila Times

Page: A1

## PH troops being used as 'cannon fodder'

BY DODO DULAY  
COLUMNIST

**I**n a bloody incident alarmingly reminiscent of the Mamasapano debacle last year, 18 government troopers were

recently massacred by the Abu Sayyaf on Tigo-Tigo, Basilan island while on the hunt for one of America's "most wanted." This latest military disaster came as the country celebrated *Araw ng Kagitingan* ▶DulayA5

■ DULAY FROM A1

## PH troops being used as 'cannon fodder'

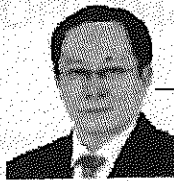
(Day of Valor), a public holiday honoring its war veterans.

According to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), about 120 Abu Sayyaf fighters ambushed soldiers from the 44th Infantry Battalion during a planned assault against the terror group. "They were ambushed as they were on their way to execute their mission," the military spokesman said, adding that the Abu Sayyaf also beheaded four soldiers involved in the clash.

Other military officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, had a more distressing assessment, pointing out that an entire platoon and an officer were "wiped out in the encounter," which lasted more than 10 hours.

Just like Mamasapano, where government troops (although composed of 'special forces' policemen rather than AFP soldiers) were mobilized to capture or kill Malaysian terrorist and bomb-maker Zulkifli Abdhir (a.k.a. "Marwan"), who was in the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)'s most wanted international terrorists' list, this latest government offensive is against another terrorist in America's "most wanted" list: Isnilon Hapilon.

Hapilon is the leader of the Abu Sayyaf group on Basilan island. He was a key player in the 2001 Dos Palmas kidnapping incident where the terror group took 20 hostages, including three Americans. The Abu Sayyaf eventually beheaded American Guillermo Soberano while an-



FLIPSIDE  
ATTY. DODO  
DULAY

other American, Martin Burnham, was killed in a cross fire during a government rescue operation. For this, Hapilon was indicted in US courts for "terrorist acts against US nationals," earning for him a spot in the FBI's most wanted.

Recently, video footage has surfaced of Hapilon pledging allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)'s self-appointed caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The Abu Sayyaf leader had reportedly been appointed by the Islamic council as the overall leader of the so-called Islamic State in the Philippines.

Like for Marwan, the US has also offered a \$5-million reward for information leading to Hapilon's capture and prosecution. Perhaps this explains the sizeable contingent earmarked by the Philippine military's top brass for this recent operation.

About five battalions (approximately 5,000 soldiers) and additional companies of strike forces under the AFP's Western Military Command (Wesmincom) headed by Maj. Gen. Mayoralgo de la Cruz have so far been deployed in the offensive operation to chase 70 to 80 Abu Sayyaf fighters led by Hapilon.

Despite the huge manpower

and resources, this recent offensive targeting Hapilon turned out to be another Mamasapano-like debacle. They not only failed to capture the Abu Sayyaf leader and had to settle for an alleged Moroccan bomb maker named Mohammad Khattab, the Philippine military also suffered its largest single-day combat loss this year.

We are not warfare experts but when an entire platoon is decimated and government troops suffer bigger losses than its less sophisticated enemy, it's a no-brainer that someone committed a major blunder, either due to bad planning or bad execution.

As it is, a ranking military official has already called for a probe into the massacre, calling it "a failure of leadership from top to bottom for lack of experience, failure of intelligence and failure of realistic planning to include intelligent mission planning." Another military officer blamed Dela Cruz for micromanaging the operations at the expense of the soldiers' lives.

Aside from the obvious snafu, we are puzzled as to the motive for the recent Basilan assault, especially since the military sees Hapilon as an ordinary criminal rather than a terrorist.

Since 2014, when video of Hapilon swearing allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi came out, the country's government officials and military officers have repeatedly dismissed Abu Sayyaf's claim

of allegiance as more aspirational than real. "They're not really ISIS," AFP spokesman Colonel Restituto Padilla told reporters in Dec. 2015. "We view them as mere criminal gangs," he added.

So the question is: Why did the Aquino government throw such a large military contingent to capture or kill a mere "criminal" like Hapilon? And why is the military rather than the police going after these so-called criminal gangs?

The way we see it, since the hinterlands of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is a "no-man's land" for US forces, both legally and tactically, the Aquino government is providing the manpower to do the dirty work of capturing or killing America's most wanted terrorists. It doesn't matter whether they're PNP troopers or AFP soldiers.

The bottom line is, in exchange for a \$5-million bounty and some vintage military hardware, our troopers are being used as "cannon fodder" for America's "war on terror."

If this arrangement continues, the Aquino government should be ready to prepare more body bags, especially after the revelation that the Basilan operation was leaked to the Abu Sayyaf after the AFP "coordinated" the assault with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

It seems Sen. Bongbong Marcos was right in junking the BBL after all.

## ONLINE NEWS

19 APRIL 2016

### Abu Sayyaf eager to cash in

From the Star Online (Apr 18): Abu Sayyaf eager to cash in

Gunmen holding the four Malaysians at the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Jolo appear eager to "convert" their captives into quick cash.

Jolo-based anti-kidnapping activist Prof Octavio Dinampo, who said this, added that a Facebook photograph of the four abducted seamen was to pressure their families into negotiating a deal for their release.

He said Malaysian authorities were seen as no longer willing to take the soft approach to "bargain" with the gunmen.

"This is indicated in the Malaysian Government's move to halt all barter trade between Sabah and southern Philippines after the beheading of hostage Bernard Thien last November and the kidnapping of the four men on April 1," Prof Dinampo said when contacted.

He said the barter trade halt had caused an increase in prices of basic items such as rice and fuel in the southern Philippine province of Sulu, where Jolo is located, and Tawi Tawi.

Prof Dinampo said the Abu Sayyaf also needed the cash to help their counterparts in Basilan island who need reinforcements following massive military operations to capture Abu Sayyaf Basilan leader Isnilon Hapilon. The group had killed 19 soldiers on April 9.

He said the Basilan gunmen were bracing for a larger scale Philippines military offensive amid ongoing clashes that have killed 23 soldiers over the past week.

"Things are becoming complicated for the gunmen and that is why they are trying to get the cash as fast as possible," Prof Dinampo said.

On Thursday, a picture of the four Malaysian sailors abducted from a tugboat off Pulau Ligitan near Semporna was uploaded on Facebook. The four sailors were seen squatting with one of them holding a piece of paper with the name "Victor Troy" with April 8 2016 written below.

The Facebook page under the name "Victor Troy Poz" is believed to have been set up recently by the Abu Sayyaf group.

Wong Teck Kang, 31, Wong Hung Sing, 34, Wong Teck Chii, 29, and Johnny Lau Jung Hien, 21, all from Sarawak, were grabbed by Abu Sayyaf-linked gunmen in international waters off Sabah's Pulau Ligitan on April 1.

With tight security at Sabah's sea border, the Abu Sayyaf have staged a total of three kidnappings on tugboats plying international shipping lanes between the Sabah-southern Philippines sea borders.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/04/18/abu-sayyaf-eager-to-cash-in-militants-want-quick-ransom-for-four-malaysian-captives/>

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

## **Balikatan Exercise 2016 in WV ends**

From the Visayan Daily Star (Apr 18): **Balikatan Exercise 2016 in WV ends**

**The Philippines-US Balikatan Exercise 2016 in Western Visayas ended Saturday, with the turnover of 13 repaired classrooms in Iloilo and Capiz provinces.**

**Lt. Col. Ray Tiongson, 3rd Infantry Division spokesman, said the 13 classrooms were repaired by US Armed Forces and AFP soldiers during the two-week bilateral exercises.**

**The beneficiaries of the Philippines-US Armed Forces bilateral exercises were the San Nicolas Elementary School in Tapaz, Capiz; Jaena Norte Elementary School in Jamindan, Capiz; and Matanghararon Elementary School in Dingle, Iloilo.**

**Tiongson said the 13 repaired classrooms were among the buildings destroyed by super typhoon Yolanda in 2013.**

**Soldiers of the AFP and the U.S. Armed Forces worked together in repairing the classrooms from March 28 to April 16, as part of the Humanitarian Civic Assistance of the Balikatan Exercise in Panay.**

The 2016 Balikatan was the second to be conducted in Panay, which was hosted by the 3ID.

The bilateral exercises also focused on training for humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and cooperative health engagement in order to empower local communities in disaster preparedness, response, relief and rehabilitation, Tiongson added.

<http://www.visayandailystar.com/2016/April/18/negor2.htm>

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.



Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

## **Soldiers assures security support in delivering poll paraphernalia, vote counting machines**

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 18): Soldiers assures security support in delivering poll paraphernalia, vote counting machines

The 86th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army based here assures support to the police for the safe delivery of election paraphernalia especially the vote counting machines in polling precincts.

, said the army camp which has security jurisdiction over the entire Isabela, said the soldiers would support the police when a Lt. Col. Vladimir Cagara, 86th Infantry Battalion commander tasked in the delivery of the said poll materials.

Cagara said some areas in Isabela has the threat on presence of rebels thereby the need for army contingent to thwart any move of the rebels to sow threat on the flow of elections on May 9, 2016.

He said his battalion is prepared to give security not only in the delivery of election paraphernalia but also before, during and after elections when necessary.

The election paraphernalia are expected to arrive in the province in the next couple of weeks and the delivery of these election materials will be made to all polling precincts in the province.

Meanwhile, the army soldiers are conducting hot pursuit operations against the rebels who killed the incumbent and seeking reelection bid of Jones Vice Mayor Ronaldo Lucas.

He said the army soldiers would continue pursuing the suspects to give justice to the killing of the town's vice mayor.

---

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=2&sid=&nid=2&rid=877537>

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

## **DND to acquire countermeasures munitions for FA-50PHs**

From the Philippine News Agency (Apr 18): DND to acquire countermeasures munitions for FA-50PHs

The Department of National Defense (DND) announced that it is allocating Php33,702,286 for the acquisition of countermeasures munitions needed for the country's South Korean-made FA-50PH "Fighting Eagle" lift-interim fighter aircraft.

The money will be sourced from the Revised AFP Modernization Program.

To be acquired are 17,280 RR-170 chaffs and 8,640 MJU-7 IR flares (with impulse cartridges) for the FA-50PH's countermeasure dispenser system.

Delivery of the items shall be in two batches with the first to be delivered within 180 calendar days from the notice to proceed (NTP).

While the second batch is required to be delivered within 360 calendar days upon receipt of the NTP.

Bidders should have completed, within the last 10 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the project.

Bid opening is on April 27, 10:00 a.m. at the DND Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, DND Building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Items being offered must be used by the Armed Forces of the country of origin or by the Armed Forces of at least two other countries.

The goods offered must be from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers.

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php?idn=1&sid=&nid=1&rid=877518>

Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.