



# **ARMY**

Serving the people. Securing the land.

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

**23 April 2016**

**Saturday**

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


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# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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**PANAHON TV**

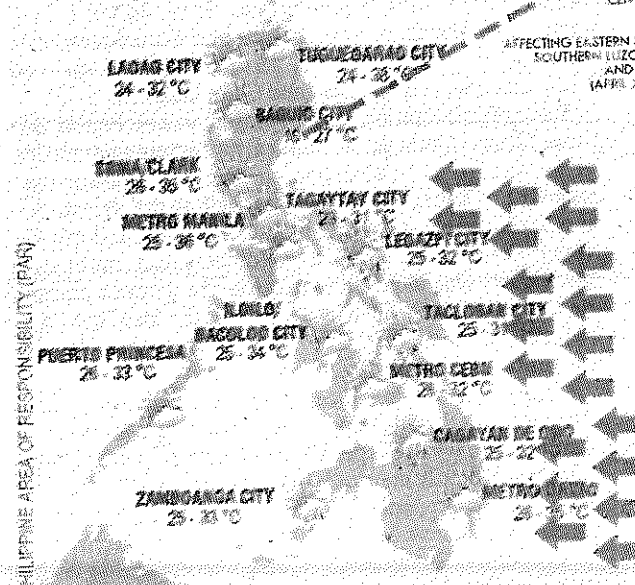
www.panahon.tv

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 23, 2016 | SATURDAY

**PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)**



**TEMPERATURE RANGES:**

- LAOAG CITY: 24-32°C
- TUQUEBARIAS CITY: 24-38°C
- BAGUIO CITY: 16-27°C
- SDMA/CLARK: 26-36°C
- METRO MANILA: 25-36°C
- TAGAYTAY CITY: 25-31°C
- LEGAZPI CITY: 25-32°C
- PUERTO PRINCESA: 26-33°C
- ILIGLOO/BACOLOD CITY: 25-34°C
- TACLOBAN CITY: 25-31°C
- METRO CEBU: 26-32°C
- CAGAYAN DE ORO: 25-32°C
- METRO DAVAO: 26-33°C
- ZAMBOANGA CITY: 26-33°C

**WEATHER NOTES:**

- RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE ARE AFFECTING NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LUZON.
- EASTERLIES AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO (APRIL 22, 5:00 PM).

**SUNRISE:** 5:32 AM

**SUNSET:** 6:11 PM

**MOONRISE:** 7:06 PM

**MOONSET:** 8:17 AM

**FULL MOON:** APR 22, 1:29 PM

**LAST QUARTER:** APR 23, 1:25 AM

**LOW TIDE:** 5:44 PM

**HIGH TIDE:** 10:31 AM

**WAVE HEIGHT:** 0.5-1.0 Meter


**WIND:** 5-10 Meter

**Clouds:** Partly cloudy skies

**Remarks:** Partly cloudy or at times cloudy with intermittent drizzle from dawn till dusk

CITY	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER	TEMPERATURE	WEATHER
METRO MANILA	25-36°C		TAGAYTAY	25-31°C
TUQUEBARIAS	24-38°C		LEGAZPI	25-32°C
LAOAG	25-32°C		PUERTO PRINCESA	26-33°C
BAGUIO	16-27°C		ILIGLOO/BACOLOD	25-34°C
SDMA/CLARK	26-36°C		METRO CEBU	26-32°C

Watch PANAHON TV everyday at 6:00 AM on PTV (Channel 4).



**AIR 21**

**SAGOT KO, PADALA MO!**

23 April 2016



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## P50,000 demanded in latest *tanim-bala*?

By RUDY SANTOS

Officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) are conducting an investigation with the help of the police Aviation Security Group on the alleged *tanim-bala* (bullet planting) that victimized Esteban Cortabista, 78, and his wife Salvacion, 75, of Antipolo, Rizal. The couple was bound for the United States. Authorities want to question the NAIA wheelchair attendant who allegedly asked for money to settle the case. The couple's niece Fei Balagot claimed Niño Namba asked for P50,000 so that the Cortabistas

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## P50,000 From Page 1

could be immediately released after a bullet was found in one of their hand-carried bags.

Airport sources said that they cannot arrest Namba because the couple has not yet filed official charges or even a verified complaint.

The senior couple immediately denied owning the bullet, saying it

was their second time to travel to US. "We both know that carrying bullets in the airport is strictly prohibited, so why would we bring bullets?" they said.

Airports sources told **The STAR** that they thought that the *tanim-bala* syndicate had been disbanded, "but it seems they are back again."

Many ranking officials at the airport said that the next admin-

istration should prioritize the reorganization of the MIAA, since its present officials have failed to curb the bullet-planting scam.

Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said the Department of Justice (DOJ) is set to hear the charges of violation of Republic Act 10591, the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, against the Cortabistas.

– With Edu Punay

23 April 2016

# INQUIRER

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## Boredom made me do it, says Comelec hacker

By Aie Balagtas See  
Metro

BOREDOM made him do it, confessed the IT graduate who hacked into the Commission on Elections (Comelec) website and caused a massive data leak of voters' information.

Defacing the Comelec website was meant "to give voice to

the voiceless," Paul Biteng told the INQUIRER in an interview. But the data leak was not part of the plan, he added.

Biteng recalled that it was a "boring" March 18 afternoon at home, and that he was "looking for something to do" aside from playing the usual computer games and reading the news

**BOREDOM/A14**

om page A1

line. He was "not a TV person" and there was no newspaper around, so the 23-year-old did what he thought he does best: hack a website.

And then he thought, "Why not deface the Comelec website?"

The hottest topic at that time was the Comelec's refusal to ensure that the vote-counting machines would have four safety features and that there would be no vote receipts during the May elections, Biteng said.

"The government didn't think it was necessary to do these things. But these are safety measures to ensure that there would be no cheating [on Election Day]," he added. "Since I was bored that day, I thought I should give voice to the voiceless."

The "operation," as Biteng

fondly called the hacking during the INQUIRER interview, began at 5 p.m. that day, a month before his graduation on April 15.

### Identities unknown

Cracking the computer codes or spotting the website's "error" took 13 hours. In between, Biteng would smoke outside his parents' house in Sampaloc, Manila, or play computer games. Then the lean-framed, curly-haired student would go back to work.

"I worked hard on this," Biteng said with an occasional laugh during the interview.

On March 20, Biteng shared the codes with fellow hackers, whose real identity he said he didn't know. By March 27, the website had been defaced and the voters' data leaked.

That was not part of the plan, Biteng said. "And that's what

bothers me the most. I did not leak the voters' details. I didn't even expect that to happen," he added.

While he feels proud of the operation to deface the Comelec website, Biteng said he regretted the leakage and his subsequent arrest.

"I don't know why (the other hackers) did that because my plan was only to deface the site and get my message across," Biteng said.

### Major breach

Initially after the hacking, Biteng said he played it cool and was unfazed by news reports. There was nothing to worry about, he thought, because he didn't leak the voters' data. But when news reports started describing the leakage as a "major breach" and "the biggest leakage in history," Biteng started to worry.

He knew then that he would be arrested, and expected authorities to pick him up soon. But getting jailed was farthest from his imagination.

"I'm scared of jail because I'm not a criminal," he said. After a pause, he burst out laughing: "Or maybe I am?"

He added: "But I didn't kill anyone. I'm not an ordinary criminal, I'm just a cybercriminal."

The National Bureau of Investigation arrested Biteng on Wednesday night, and criminal charges were filed against him the following day at the Manila city prosecutor's office. He remains detained at the NBI cybercrime division pending the resolution of the case.

The Comelec, meanwhile, said the website with the leaked voters' data had been taken down.

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## NPA commanders killed in pursuit ops vs PNP abductors

DAVAO CITY - The 10th Infantry (Agila) Division of the Philippine Army on Thursday confirmed that the two bodies recovered at encounter sites in Sito Bandan, Barangay Lumiad in Paquibato District here were that of high-ranking New People's Army (NPA) leaders operating in the area.

In a statement, 10th ID chief information officer Capt. Rhyan Batchar identified the NPA leaders killed as Bernie Pepito Alima alias King, vice-commanding officer of Andoy Platoon of Pulang Bagani Company (PBC) 1; and Levy Boy Almosara alias Rexan, commanding officer of Basil Platoon, also of PBC 1.

Their bodies were recovered by the troopers of 84th Infantry Battalion during its pursuit operations against NPA rebels who engaged them in the area last April 18 and 19 in Sitio Banban, Barangay Lumiad, Paquibato District here.

Batchar added that the two are also believed to be part of the group that attacked the military detachment in Quiman-anao village on Saturday last week that resulted in the wounding of a militiaman and a civilian.

After that attack, the insurgents also abducted a police major and his men who were responding to the incident.

Chief Insp. Leonardo V. Tarongoy, the station commander of Paquibato Police Station, PO3 Rosenie L. Cabuenas, PO3 Rudolf Pacete, PO3 Abdul Azis A. Ali Jr. and PO2 Neil C. Arellano, and civilian driver Ronald Dordas were on board their patrol vehicle en route to Brgy. Salapawan

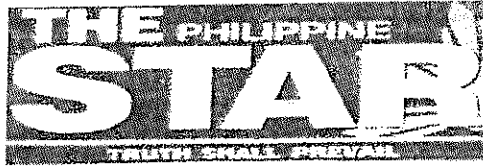
when they were flagged down in Brgy. Mapula.

In the same statement to the media here, 10th ID commander Major General Rafael Valencia said that the death of the two ranking NPA leaders was an indication that "the long arm of the law will, sooner or later, get all those who espouse and use violence to achieve their goals."

"We should all realize that all these social, political and economic problems we face regularly are best resolved in an environment of peace," he added.

The army and the Philippine National Police in Davao region (PNP-11) on Wednesday reiterated that they will never negotiate with any lawless groups and that the intensified pursuit operations against the PNP abductors will continue. (Alexander D. Lopez)

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## Soldier seized in N. Cotabato

**NORTH COTABATO** – Suspected communist rebels seized a soldier in Makilala, North Cotabato on Thursday.

Pvt. First Class Eduardo Hilaga Jr., who was driving his motorcycle, was among those pulled over at a "checkpoint" set up by New People's Army rebels.

Hilaga, a member of the 7th Infantry Battalion, was on his way to their headquarters in Kabacan town after visiting his family in Barangay Kisan.

"He was on his way to Kabacan to join an Army humanitarian outreach mission for poor villagers," said Capt. Joan Petinglay, spokesperson for the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Responding policemen recovered Hilaga's black Honda motorcycle.

– John Unson

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## Miranda named acting AFP chief

By DELON PORCALLA

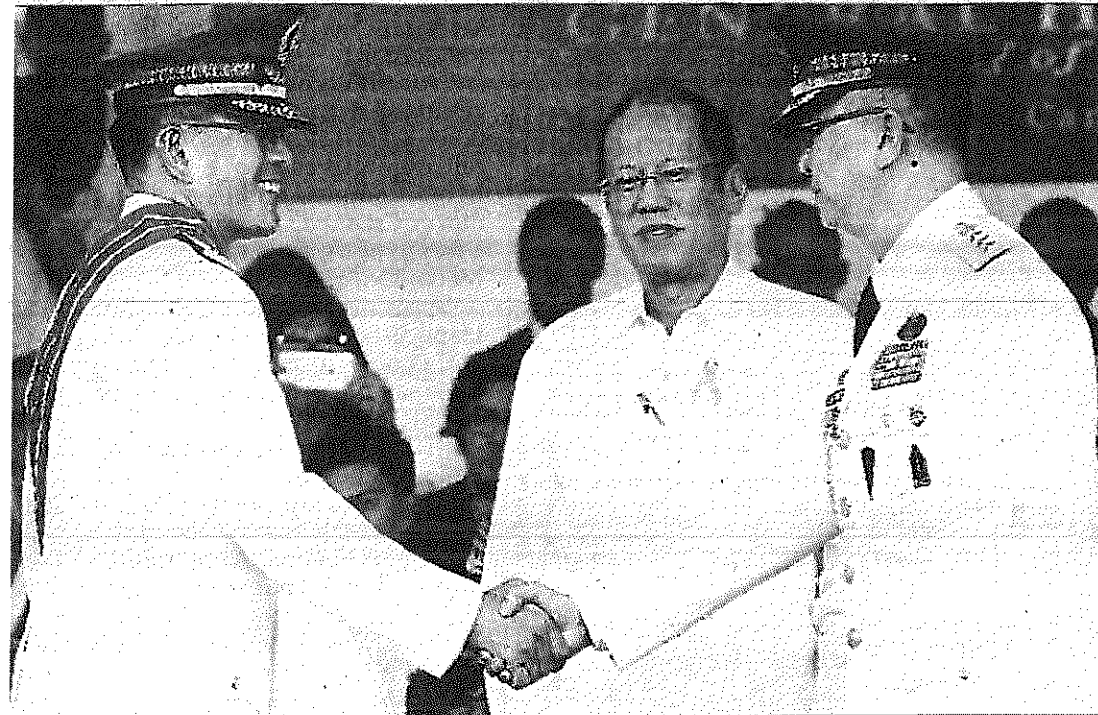
President Aquino has appointed Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda as the new chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), replacing Gen. Hernando Iriberry who left the service yesterday upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Aquino led the turnover ceremonies at the AFP general headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo. Miranda, the vice chief of staff, will be assuming the top AFP post in an acting capacity due to restrictions under election rules that prohibit appointments to certain positions at this time.

Unless the next president extends his appointment, Miranda's term will be coterminous with Aquino's on June 30.

Aquino lauded Iriberry for his exemplary military service, highlighted by the conduct of the peaceful 2013 elections in the province of Abra and the arrest of top New People's Army (NPA) leaders Benito

Turn to Page 3



President Aquino presides over the change of command from Gen. Hernando Iriberry to the acting Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, during a ceremony at the AFP Grandstand in Quezon City yesterday.

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

## Miranda From Page 1

and Wilma Tiamzon.

Iriberry was also cited by the President for his untiring efforts that brought peace to 52 out of 56 NPA-affected areas around the country, making them ready for peaceful development.

Iriberry, in his retirement speech, said the recent killing of 18 soldiers in Basilan would not deter the military from performing its mandated task to protect the people and the state against known enemies.

"A number of times in the last

three decades I have mourned the loss of my men. Even then their sacrifices bolster our determination to fight harder. Just 13 days ago, we witnessed the valor of our troops as they made the ultimate sacrifice during an operation in Basilan province. I salute their valor. We shall not be cowed by this incident. Instead, after we have wiped our tears, we shall continue the fight for peace and for our people," Iriberry said.

Miranda, for his part, said that as acting AFP chief, his command thrust

will be patterned after the operational plans and programs already initiated by Iriberry.

Miranda, a member of Philippine Military Academy "Matikas" Class of 1983, assumed as the AFP vice chief in March, after his position as commanding general of the Northern Luzon Command was swapped with then vice chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo.

Before he was Nolcom chief, Miranda served as commanding general of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija.

He also led the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion, 1002nd Brigade.

He was also dean of academics

of the AFP Command and General Staff College and later on the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command at Camp Aguinaldo.

Miranda is a Scout Ranger, a paratrooper, infantry and intelligence officer. He has a master's degree in National Security and Business Administration.

"As a soldier, I have seen violence and disturbing landscapes on many occasions. In all these occasions, none I would say was ever pleasant and for the lack of softer terms, they all look ugly," Miranda said.

In pursuit of peace, Miranda enjoined all servicemen to be guided

by the military's operational thrusts and guidelines to prioritize goals for attaining decisive wins while at the same time sustaining support for the government's peace initiatives.

As acting chief of the 130,000-strong military, Miranda also said he would continue to push the AFP modernization program while uplifting the morale and welfare of the troops.

"The upgrade of our defense posture and delivery of needed new platforms and materiel, as well as the release of resources for many other projects, came at the most opportune time," Miranda said. – **With Jaime Laude**

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## INQUIRER

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# AFP will be apolitical, acting chief vows

By Julie M. Aurelio and Nikko Dizon

THE NEW acting chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines on Friday rallied the 125,000-strong military to ensure credible elections on May 9 and remain apolitical, calling the elections "one of the country's finest moments."

"Our country is nearing one of its finest moments, the elections, in a few days from now... As oftenly said, the AFP will remain apolitical and will stretch its means to contribute to that end," Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda said in his speech.

President Aquino formally named Miranda AFP acting chief on Friday morning at Camp Aguinaldo as Chief of Staff Gen. Hernando Iriberry retired at 56, the mandatory retirement age in the military and police.

The Constitution prohibits the President from appointing an AFP chief of staff because of the election ban on appointments. This gives the next President a free hand in appointing a military chief.

Even so, Mr. Aquino expressed confidence that Miranda was capable of continuing Iriberry's programs until June 30, when the President steps down from office.

"Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda will be the acting chief of staff. He is known to be analytical and innovative as a strategist and a soldier," he said in a seven-minute-long speech, his shortest yet as Commander in Chief.

Miranda, a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Matikas" Class of 1983 like Iriberry, will keep his current position as vice chief of staff, military officials said.

Miranda, 54, reminded the military officers and men to be guided by operational guidelines and tasks in securing next month's elections.

"As I emphasized earlier, let us secure the conditions that would lead to the conduct of a free, orderly, peaceful and credible 2016 national and local elections," he said.

Miranda, a Scout Ranger, was the commander of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) before President Aquino named him as vice chief of staff in March.

Mr. Aquino also praised Iriberry for his "professionalism, talent, and dedication" which he said are the "hallmarks of a true soldier."

He recalled that during Iriberry's term as brigade commander in Abra in 2013, there was no declaration of failure of elections in the province and no election-related violence.

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**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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# Iriberri retires; Miranda designated acting AFP chief

Lieutenant Gen. Glorioso Miranda has been designated as acting Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) until a new one is

appointed by the country's next president.

In a ceremony held in Camp Aguinaldo, Miranda replaced Gen. Hernando Iriberri who retired from the service on Friday after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56.

President Aquino, in his remarks, explained that he was unable to appoint a new military chief due to a constitutional ban on appointments.

Miranda, a member of the Philippine Military Academy class of 1983, was named AFP vice chief of staff last month.

"Bagaman hindi na tayo makapagtatagala ng Chief of Staff dahil sa mga pamantayan ng Saligang Batas, tiwala pa rin tayo na ang papalit kay Gen. Iriberri ay maipagpapatuloy ang maganda niyang nasimulan, sa nala-



IRIBERRI

labing mga buwan ng ating termino [Although I can no longer appoint a chief of staff due to the provisions of the Constitution, I am confident the replacement of Gen. Iriberri would continue the good things he initiated in the remaining months of our term]," Aquino said.

"Magiging acting chief of staff si Lt. Gen.

Glorioso Miranda, na kilala sa pagiging mapanuri at maparaan bilang strategist at sundalo [Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, known for being analytical and resourceful strategist and soldier, will be the acting chief of staff]," he added.

Sec. 15, Art. VII of the 1987 Constitution provides that a President or acting President shall not make appointments two months before the next elections and up to the end of his term.

Exempted from the appointment

ban are temporary appointments to executive positions when vacancies would prejudice public service or endanger public safety.

Miranda previously served as commanding general of the Northern Luzon Command. He also became the commanding general of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija.

The President, meantime, lauded the professionalism, competence and dedication of Iriberri during the retirement ceremony.

Under Iriberri's watch, Aquino said the military has neutralized high value targets such as Moroccan bomb instructor Mohammad Khattab and New People's Army leader Maria Concepcion Bocala.

Aquino said 52 of the 76 provinces affected by the communist rebels' activities have become "peaceful and ready for fuller development."

Of the 52 provinces, 21 have been declared peaceful during the term of Iriberri as Army chief and AFP chief of staff. (Genalyn D. Kabiling)

23 April 2016

The Manila Times

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# Help ensure peaceful polls, Aquino asks AFP

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE  
REPORTER

**P**RESIDENT Benigno Aquino 3rd on Friday challenged security forces to ensure that the May 9 elections will be peaceful and orderly.

Aquino, the military's Commander-in-Chief, attended a ceremony marking the retirement of Gen. Hernando Iriberry in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Friday but did not name a successor to the outgoing AFP chief of staff, who turned 56.

Iriberry's mandatory retirement came at a time when appointments are banned because of the local and national elections next month.

Without a replacement for Iriberry, the AFP will be led by an acting chief of staff until the next President names a new one after assuming office in June.

In his speech, Aquino said he is constitutionally barred from appoint-

ing a new AFP chief, which is why Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda is only taking over the AFP in an acting capacity, being the AFP vice chief of staff.

But the President expressed confidence that Miranda will continue Iriberry's program, especially for peaceful elections.

*"Ngayon nga po, bagaman hindi na tayo makakapagtalaga ng Chief of Staff dahil sa mga pamantayan ng Saligang Batas, tiwala pa rin tayo na ang papalit kay General Iriberry ay maipagpapatuloy ang maganda niyang nasimulan, sa nalalabing mga buwan ng ating termino [While I cannot appoint a Chief of Staff because of the constitutional prohibition, I am confident*

that the successor of General Iriberry will continue the good things that he had started, in the remaining months of my term]," Aquino said.

*"Magiging acting Chief of Staff si Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, na kilala sa pagiging mapanuri at maparaan bilang strategist at sundalo [Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, who is known as a thorough strategist and soldier, will be the acting Chief of Staff]," he added.*

In response, Miranda assured that the military will remain apolitical in the May 9 elections.

*"Our country is nearing one of its finest moments, national and local elections a few days from now. Your AFP is committed to achieving orderly and peaceful conduct of these coming elections," said Miranda, who assumed his post 17 days before the polls.*

*"As oftenly said, the AFP will remain apolitical and stretch its means to contribute to this end," he added.*

Miranda, Iriberry's Philippine Military Academy 1983 class-

mate, was former commander of the AFP's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom).

Before he was Nolcom chief, he had served as commanding general of the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Nueva Ecija province.

He also led the Army's 25th Infantry Battalion, 1002nd Brigade.

Miranda was also a Dean of Academics of the AFP Command and General Staff College and later on the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command at Camp Aguinaldo, the military's general headquarters located in Quezon City.

A Scout Ranger, a paratrooper, an infantry and an intelligence officer, he has a master's degree in National Security and Business Administration.

Miranda is the 7th and final AFP chief appointed by Aquino, who steps down on June 30.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had 11 chiefs of staff in her nine years in office.

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# 7 Marines wounded in clash with Sayyaf

By ROEL PARENO

ZAMBOANGA CITY – At least seven Marines were wounded in an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf yesterday in Sulu.

The soldiers were on a search and rescue mission for kidnap victims.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokes-

man for Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), said specialized forces ran into the bandit group led by Hairullah Asbang in the vicinity of Barangay Tugas, a mountainous village in Patikul town at about 11 a.m.

Tan said the troops of the Spe-

cial Operations Command (SOC) 10 and 62nd Marine Company fought it out with the Abu Sayyaf for an hour.

He said the enemy side suffered casualties but an exact number could not be determined as

the bandits retreated to the forest.

There was no immediate sighting of any hostages during the encounter.

The clash occurred as the military intensified search and rescue operations to prevent the Abu

Sayyaf from harming its captives following an ultimatum that lapses on Monday if the demand of P300 million each for the Samal captives is not met.

Canadians John Ridsdel, Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad and Filipina Marites

Flor were kidnapped on Sept. 21 in Samal Island in Davao.

Aside from the four captives, the Abu Sayyaf was also believed to be holding a Dutch national, 14 Indonesians, four Malaysians, a Chinese woman and six Filipinos.

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# AFP mum on US air patrol over Scarborough

By JAIME LAUDE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) remains tight-lipped over the recent flying mission conducted by the US air contingent in the vicinity of Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

A number of senior military officials who attended yesterday's AFP change of command at Camp Aguinaldo all declined to comment on the recent US air sortie.

"We don't have any knowl-

edge about it," said two of the senior officials, whose respective units have air and maritime jurisdictions over the entire West Philippine Sea and South China Sea.

Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) commander Lt. Gen. Romeo Tanalgo also declined to comment on the recent US air patrol near Panatag Shoal.

Tanalgo's unit has overall command of the entire mili-

tary in the country's northern front.

On the other hand, Undersecretary and former AFP chief Emmanuel Bautista was seen at Camp Aguinaldo discussing things with an unnamed Chinese military defense attaché.

The two were standing near the AFP Public Affairs Office and seen talking to each other after attending the AFP com-

mand turnover, an event presided over by President Aquino.

On Tuesday, the US Air Force said it has dispatched an attack aircraft, along with its primary combat search and rescue helicopters, for an air mission in international airspace but within the vicinity of Panatag Shoal.

S/Sgt. Benjamin Stratton of the Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs (PAFPA) said USPACOM's

Air Contingent operations at Clark Air Base involved four A-10Cs Thunderbolts and two HH-60G Pave Hawks.

"The A-10s and HH-60s conducted a flying mission through international airspace in the vicinity of Panatag Shoal west of the Philippines providing air and maritime situational awareness. These missions promote transparency and safety of movement in international

waters and airspace," Stratton said in a statement yesterday.

He said the aircraft are part of the "Air Contingent in the Philippines" specifically to conduct operations ranging from air and maritime domain awareness, personally recovery, combating piracy and to assure all nations have access to air and sea domains throughout the region in accordance with international law.

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Pahina. 2

## **DND: China pasimuno ng problema sa WPS**

KINUMPIRMA ng Department of National Defense na ang bansang China ang pasimuno ng problema sa West Philippine Sea na pilit namang binibigyan ng solusyon ang anomang teritorial dispute sa diplomatiko at mapayapang paraan sa kabila ng pagpapadala ng China ng military aircraft sa West Philippine Sea.

Ayon kay Defense spokesperson Peter Paul Galvez, hindi gagawa ang Pilipinas ng anomang hakbang na mas magpapainit ng tensiyon sa pinag-aagawang teritoryo.

Ang pagpapadala ng eroplanong pandigma sa Fiery Cross Reef o Kagitingan reef ay malinaw umanong pagpakita ng militarisasyon sa rehiyon.

Una nang kinumpirma ng China na sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay nagpadala ang China ng military aircraft sa Kagitingan reef para sunduin ang mga sundalong may malalang karamdaman.

MARY ANNE SAPICO

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MANILA BULLETIN  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

# Getting started on a transformation journey

By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO



**T**HE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) took a while to get started on its transformation program. But once it got started, it has moved with the program and made progress with it very quickly. It has been the fastest "national government agency (NGA)" that has gone through the first three phases of the governance pathway. After obtaining "proficiency" status within the Performance Governance System (PGS), the adaptation into local Philippine circumstances of the balanced scorecard, it worked towards being branded an "Island of Good Governance." It was one of only 12 Philippine government units that were presented as exemplary practitioners — with breakthrough results that were audited and verified by a team of external auditors — of a system for good governance and anti-corruption before an APEC audience in November, 2015. Considering that the AFP started adapting the system into its internal processes only in 2012, the pace at which it has been traveling on the governance pathway has been amazingly fast.

It took some time, however, before it decided to start on its transformation journey. This has been, in part, due to the size and complexity of the AFP organization: a decision of such a strategic character — such as that of embarking on a transformation journey — should be taken with a lot of discernment and cautionary prudence. To be fair, the AFP was being nudged towards adapting the PGS, which in effect is the Philippine version of the balanced scorecard, since the early part of 2010.

— The outgoing administration celebrated the agreement the Philippines was able to forge with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of the US. It secured a "partner status" after the Philippines demonstrated that six national government agencies (NGAs) had embarked on a good governance (anti-corruption) program, which had

The partnership agreement with the MCC was formally signed, after the new administration had taken office in the second half of 2010.

— The Office of the President had issued a Memorandum Order expanding the coverage of the good governance program beyond the original six NGAs. Since the Philippine Navy had started on such a program before this Memorandum Order was issued, the Office of the President included the AFP, the Philippine Army, and the Philippine Navy in the expanded list of NGAs encouraged to go through the PGS-balanced scorecard good governance program.

— On the basis of such an encouragement from the Office of the President, the Philippine Army decided to formulate and then execute an Army Transformation Program. This soon started to deliver good results, which were promising of future transformation of the Army. Given the relative size and importance of the Army within the AFP structure, the positive developments that were beginning to happen in the Army could not escape the notice of the general headquarters, and thus of the AFP.

Before the AFP finally decided to get started with its own transformation program, it had internalize — and fully understand as well as appreciate — the three basic demands of the PGS-balanced scorecard good governance program. And it had to make a determination that in fact these basic demands would meet some, if not most, of the felt-needs of the AFP. It soon came to increasingly realize that the following demands would help address some of its basic needs:

— A good governance program is all about the long-term strengthening and further development of the institution as a whole. The focus is on the long term, i.e. over a stretch of many years. In the case of the Army, the decision was to take the entire period between 2010 and 2028. The AFP decided to adopt this same long-term perspective. It recognized that to further strengthen and develop the

at some foreseeable future, it would take many years. This has many advantages, not the least of which is to untie any possible connection of the progress of the AFP transformation program with the much shorter political cycle (with every Administration limited only to six years).

— Good governance is much less about personalities, and so much more about the entire institution as such, in this case the AFP. Taking into account the fast turn-over of the AFP chiefs of staff, whose terms of service have been kept short by current Philippine law (as inspired by the Philippine Constitution), the importance of personal legacy projects that individual AFP chiefs of staff may be inclined to focus on is reduced to relative insignificance compared to the much greater focus on those initiatives and programs for the long-term development and strengthening of the AFP as a whole.

— A governance system is comprehensive in its coverage and concerns. It covers the skills and motivation of personnel; the efficiency of internal core processes; the service to the general public and the perception the public may have of the AFP; the financial constraints; and finally the socio-economic impact of AFP programs and strategies. Budgets and fund sources are only one of five critical facets that a governance program covers. Moreover, all policies and programs — including all doctrines and operating systems — need to be properly interconnected with each other in mutually reinforcing fashion. Alignment, as the AFP would soon find out, is key to the success of a governance and transformation program.

These demands can be mind-boggling for an organization as big and complex as the AFP. But after due deliberation, and with an eye trained on what the Army was beginning to experience, the AFP finally made a decision: in 2012, it decided to start on a good governance and transformation journey, adopting the PGS-balanced

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### Seguridad sa Sultan Kudarat, hinigpitan kasunod nang encounter, re: NPA patay

By Bombo KoronadalPosted in Latest NewsFriday, 22 April 2016 06:48

(Update) KORONADAL CITY - Mas hinigpitan ngayon ang seguridad sa Brgy. Datablao sa bayan ng Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Ito'y matapos mapatay ang isang pinaniniwalaang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa nangyaring sagupaan sa 39th Infantry Battalion sa nasabing lugar.

Una rito, sa panayam ng **Bombo Radyo Koronadal** kay Captain Danny Boy Tapang, tagapagsalita ng 39th IB, nasa 10 tauhan ng NPA na tinaguriang Guerilla Front 72 ang nakasalubong ng kanilang tropa habang nagpapatrolya dakong alas-2:00 kahapon na nauwi sa engkwentro.

Maliban sa hindi nakikilalang rebelde, nakuha naman sa pag-iingat nito ang isang M-16 rifle.

Wala namang nasugatan o nasawi sa panig ng militar sa naturang insidente.

[www.dwdd.com.ph](http://www.dwdd.com.ph)

### NEW LEADERSHIP II Miranda replaces Iriberri on military's top post

14 April 22, 2016 1:00pm



Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, DWDD — On April 22, 2016, General Hernando DCA Iriberri, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff, has formally retired from military service in a Change of Command and Retirement Ceremonies at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo on the same day of his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday. The said ceremony was attended by President Benigno S. Aquino III, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, and DILG Secretary Senen Sarmiento and other key officials in the government.

Iriberri relinquished his post after serving for about nine months since his assumption in July 10, 2015.

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In the said ceremony, President Aquino, commander-in-chief, appointed Lieutenant General Glorioso Miranda, former AFP Vice Chief of Staff, as the new AFP Chief of Staff. His acting capacity is because Iriberry's mandatory retirement came at a time when appointments are banned due to elections.

Prior to his position, Miranda served as the 26<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Northern Luzon Command of the AFP (NOLCOM) and Commander of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion during the Army's all-out war against the southern secessionists. He was also a Dean of Academics of the AFP Command and General Staff College and later on the General Headquarters and Headquarters Service Command at Camp Aguinaldo. Miranda also served as a Scout Ranger, a Paratrooper, and an Infantry and Intelligence officer with commando training in the United Kingdom.

During the turnover ceremony, Lt. Gen Miranda said that the military will assure that the May 9 elections will be peaceful and orderly.

He also vowed to continue to pursue undesirable elements that disturb the balance and sow terrorism in the country.

Miranda also added that the AFP, under his watch, will continue to fight for peace. "Peace is not a destination, but a continuing journey.", the new acting Chief of Staff said on Friday.

In his valedictory speech, outgoing AFP Chief Iriberry expressed his gratitude to the people who has helped him through the years of his military service including Pres. Aquino, , and most especially the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Iriberry also expressed his sadness over the death of the 18 soldiers during the Basilan Encounter last April 9. He also said that he salutes their sacrifice in name of service to the country.

He mentioned that throughout his military service, he only applied one leadership principle, and that is in order to be a good leader, one must learn to understand the people and the situation.

Before the ceremony ended, Pres. Aquino, in his closing address, proudly stated the improvement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines under his term such as augmentation in the soldiers' allowance, additional housing units for the soldiers, and the overall modernization of the AFP.

The President ended his speech by saying, "The Filipino is definitely worth dying for."

Both Iriberry and Miranda are members of Philippine Military Academy "Matikas" Class of 1983.  
(LMC/CSA/ALS)

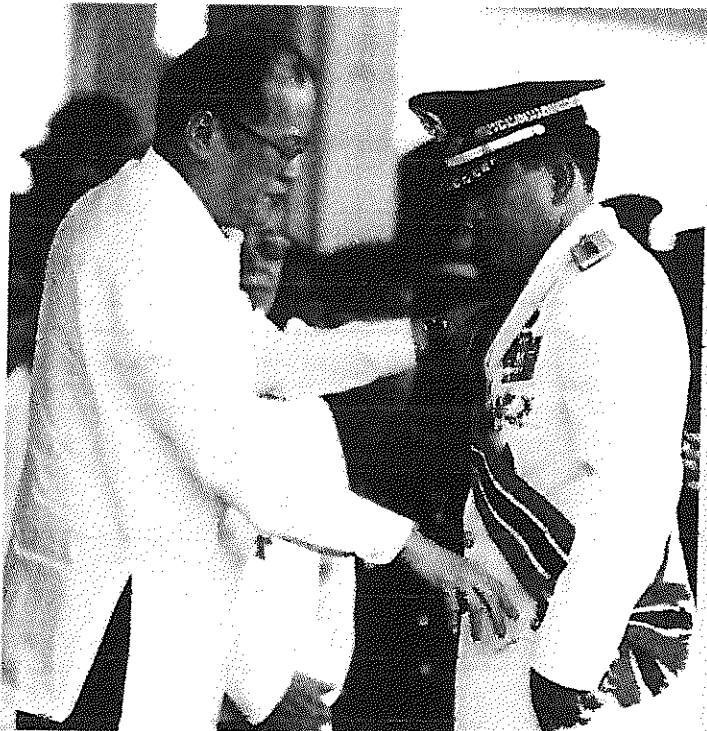
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## **PNoy attends AFP chief's retirement rites without naming successor**

By: Jaime Sinapit, InterAksyon.com

April 22, 2016 12:42 PM



*President Benigno S. Aquino III presides at the Change of Command Ceremony and Retirement Ceremony for AFP Chief General Hernando Iriberry at the AFP General Headquarters Grandstand of Camp Emilio Aguinaldo on Friday (April 22, 2016). MALACANANG PHOTO BUREAU*

[InterAksyon.com](http://InterAksyon.com)

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA, Philippines - (UPDATE, 5:57PM) President Benigno Aquino III attended the parade marking the retirement of General Hernando Iriberry in Camp Aguinaldo on Friday but did not name a successor to the outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, who turned 56.

There had been talk that Iriberry might be given an extension of his term by Aquino, who himself is winding down his six-year presidency.

Iriberry is facing criminal and administrative charges before the Office of the Ombudsman over the scrapping of two high-explosive ammunition contracts worth P97.8 million and a separate arms smuggling case.

Without a replacement for Iriberry, the AFP will be led by an acting chief of staff until the next president names a new one after assuming office.

The President, meanwhile, designated Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda the Acting Chief of Staff.

Miranda is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Matikas" Class of 1983.

When Aquino assumed office in 2010, he refused to recognize the late General Delfin Bangit, who had been appointed AFP chief by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in March that year. Bangit nipped the controversy by going into early retirement in June.

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## **Acting AFP chief orders all military members to comply with directives securing May 9 polls**

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, April 22 (PNA) --- As he formally assumes command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) albeit in an acting capacity, Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda ordered all officers and enlisted personnel to comply with the directives issued to ensure the coming May 9 elections.

"As I emphasized earlier, let us secure the conditions that would lead to the conduct of a free, orderly, peaceful and credible 2016 national and local elections," he added.

The same directives also calls for the 125,000-strong AFP to remain apolitical and non-partisan.

As this develops, Miranda said operations against rebel and terrorist groups in Mindanao would continue until all these threats were neutralized.

These groups are believed to be responsible for a series of kidnapping incidents and bloody clashes in the region.

"Around the countryside, particularly in our southern territories, we will relentlessly pursue undesirable elements that continue to sow terror among our peace-loving citizens, those who disturb the balance that provide the platform for economic growth and development," he said.

The acting AFP chief also thanked President Aquino for supporting the AFP modernization program, which led to many completed procurement under newly-retired Gen. Hernando DCA Iriberry's term.

It was during Iriberry's nine months that the two supersonic FA-50PH lead-in fighter jets and new combat helicopters were delivered to the Philippine Air Force, the arrival of 100 armored personnel carriers for the Philippine Army and three landing craft heavies (LCHs) for the Philippine Navy.

But Miranda said equipment did not automatically translate to capability as there was still the need to improve capability acquisition and resourcing.

He added that the AFP should expand its modernization in the realm of international defense and security engagements. (PNA)

RMA/PFN

[www.pna.gov.ph](http://www.pna.gov.ph)

## **US aircraft conducts 1st maritime situational awareness flight in Clark**

MANILA, April 22 (PNA) -- Four A-10C "Thunderbolt" IIs and two HH-60G "Pave Hawks" conducted their first maritime situational awareness flight out of Clark Air Base in Pampanga last April 19, the US Embassy in Manila said.

The aircraft are part of the US Pacific Command's Air Contingent deployed to Clark Air Base.

The deployment of the aircraft, which have remained behind in the Philippines after participating in "Balikatan" 2016, will include conducting operations such as air and maritime domain awareness,

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personnel recovery, combating piracy, and helping to assure that all nations have access to air and sea domains throughout the region in accordance with international law.

All operations and deployments are planned and executed with the consent and cooperation of the Philippine government.

The maritime situational awareness operation took the A-10s and HH-60s through international airspace to the west of Luzon.

Missions such as this one promote transparency and safety of movement in international waters and airspace, and showcase the US commitment to ally and partner nations as well as to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region's continued stability.

"Inter-operability with the Philippine military is at the forefront of our mission," Air Contingent head Col. Larry Card said.

"The standup of the Air Contingent promotes this collective focus as we build upon our already strong alliance, and reaffirm our commitment to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region."

All personnel in this deployment are airmen assigned to various Pacific Air Forces bases, and include aircrew, maintainers, logistics and support personnel. (PNA)

JMC/PFN

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## **Bangkay ng nawawalang army major, natagpuan na**

By Bombo Jerald UlepPosted in Latest News on May 22 April 2016 21:26

Matapos ang halos isang linggo, natagpuan na ang bangkay ng Army major na nawawala sa diving exercise sa Island Garden City ng Samal.

Ayon kay Maj. Ezra Balagtey, spokesman ng Eastern Mindanao Command, natagpuan ang labi ni Maj. Hector Dongail ng Navy technical divers sa tulong ng remote-operated vehicle sa Talikud island kaninang hapon lamang.

"The cadaver was retrieved by technical divers this afternoon April 22, after almost seven days of search and rescue," ani Balagtey.

Huling nakita si Dongail kasama ang mga military officers sa isang proficiency diving exercise noong umaga ng Sabado.

Idineklara itong missing matapos ang isa't kalahating oras dahil hindi na siya nakita sa lugar.

Si Dongail ay miyembro ng Philippine Military Academy (PMA) class of 1999.

"In behalf of the officers, men and employees together with the family we thank everyone for your support and prayers," dagdag ni Balagtey.

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