

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



ARMY

Serving the people. Securing the land.

oacpa.army2012@gmail.com

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

30 April 2016

Saturday

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

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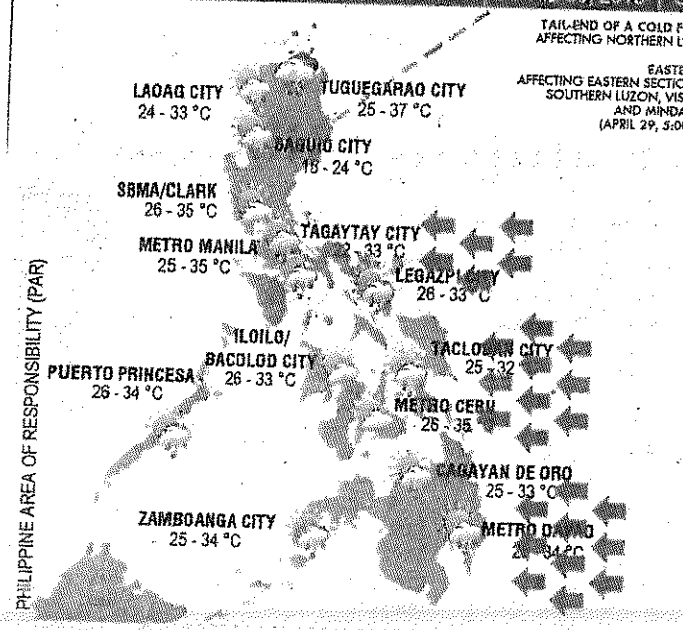


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | APRIL 30, 2016 | SATURDAY



SUNRISE 5:34 AM

SUNSET 6:13 PM

MOONRISE 12:03 AM

MOONSET 11:54 AM

LAST QUARTER APR 30 11:29 AM

NEW MOON MAY 7 3:30 AM

LOW TIDE 11:54 PM
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
-0.01 Meter

HIGH TIDE 2:40 PM
0.91 Meter

Partly cloudy skies

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

	APR 30	MAY 1	APR 30	MAY 1	APR 30	MAY 1		
METRO MANILA	25-35 °C	25-35 °C	TAGAYTAY	23-33 °C	23-32 °C	TACLOBAN	24-31 °C	24-31 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24-37 °C	24-38 °C	LEGAZPI	26-33 °C	26-34 °C	CAGAYAN DE ORO	24-31 °C	25-33 °C
LAOAG	24-33 °C	24-32 °C	PUERTO PRINCESA	26-34 °C	27-34 °C	METRO DAVAO	25-35 °C	26-34 °C
BAGUIO	16-27 °C	16-27 °C	ILOILO/ BACOLOD	26-33 °C	25-34 °C	ZAMBOANGA	24-34 °C	25-34 °C
SBMA/ CLARK	25-35 °C	24-36 °C	METRO CEBU	26-35 °C	26-34 °C			

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SAGOT KO, PADALA

30 April 2016

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Page: A1

Duterte: I have less than P200M in bank

Mayor: Trillanes broke bank law with exposé

By Nancy C. Carvajal

DAVAO City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was evasive when asked yesterday about the P2.4 billion in transactions in his alleged 17 accounts in three banks, but was clear about his account at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) branch on Julia Vargas Avenue in Pasig City.

"I have an account, with a little less than 200 million" Duterte said, referring to the BPI Julia Vargas account that, according to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, contained P227 million in deposits.

Duterte gave flippant answers to questions about the P2.4 billion transactions reported by Trillanes, saying he could not exactly remember how much

was in the accounts.

"I could not say exactly because of the zeroes," he said.

Asked why he did not declare the bank accounts in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), Duterte replied: "I already spent it."

He did not say where the money came from, but earlier,

DUTERTE/A6

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

Davao City mayor's youngest son owns San Juan

townhouse • P-Noy fears return of another dictatorship

(02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295

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From page A1

he said friends gave him money as birthday gift.

Based on documents provided by Trillanes, Duterte had P2.407 billion in three banks (two in Metro Manila and one in Davao).

From 2006 to 2015, the record showed Duterte held seven joint accounts with his daughter Sara at BPI Julia Vargas, nine joint accounts at the BPI Edsa Greenhills branch and one joint account at Banco de Oro Unibank-1 in Davao City.

Duterte met with reporters in a Pasay City restaurant yesterday to announce that Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla, a former spokesperson for Vice President Jejomar Binay, had joined his team.

Monday meeting

He also said that he had authorized his lawyer Salvador Panelo to appear at the BPI Julia Vargas branch on Monday to represent him and open the records of his accounts in response to Trillanes' challenge made on Thursday.

He explained that he could not face Trillanes because he would be in Davao City on Monday.

In response, Trillanes said Duterte should show not just the current balance of his accounts, but also the transaction history covering years.

Trillanes said he would not accept it if Duterte's camp would allow just a peek into the current account balance.

He said he suspected this was what Duterte's lawyer would do to buttress the mayor's claim that the accounts contained only a pittance.

Trillanes dared Duterte on Thursday to meet at BPI Julia Vargas to sign a waiver that would allow the disclosure of his bank accounts.

Yesterday, Duterte urged Trillanes to execute an affidavit stating that he has records of the alleged bank accounts, and the manner and purpose with which the documents were obtained.

Duterte said Trillanes could be charged with perjury if he could not prove that undeclared wealth was funneled into the alleged accounts.

He added that the senator's exposé is illegal, as it violates the bank secrecy law.

Panelo issued a statement yesterday saying that banks are prohibited from disclosing information unless ordered by the courts so the documents that Trillanes claims he has are "absolute fabrications."

That Trillanes refuses to disclose the source of the documents shows the papers came from a polluted source, Panelo said.

"That he refuses to reduce into writing and under oath his allegations against Mayor Duterte validates the theory that Trillanes does not want—and is afraid—to be accountable for the falsities he has so viciously spread," Panelo said.

'Not necessary'

But Trillanes said an affidavit was not necessary.

"He's just looking for a way out. Why does he want to know who my source is? Will he have the [Davao Death Squad] go after the source?" Trillanes said.

What is important, he said, is the undeclared amounts in Duterte's bank accounts.

BPI yesterday said it had nothing to do with the disclosure of the records of Duterte's accounts.

"Allegations of breach of client confidentiality have recently been leveled at Bank of the Philippine Islands. Our internal investigation reveals there has been no such breach," BPI said in a statement.

"BPI continues to have one of the most highly regarded data protection practices in the industry, and we are committed to protecting client information and preserving the trust bestowed on us by our

clients all these years," it said.

Panelo charged that Trillanes concocted the bank accounts story to boost his "cellar survey rating" in the vice presidential race.

No assault on Duterte's character and reputation as a public official could stop the mayor's surge and election to the presidency, Panelo said.

According to the documents provided by Trillanes, Duterte and his daughter Sara have 17 bank accounts that contain hundreds of millions of pesos.

At BPI Julia Vargas alone, father and daughter received total deposits and transfers of P1.74 billion. They had P667.24 million in total deposits in BPI Edsa Greenhills and P534,989.75 in BDO-Unibank (Account No. 1370020471).

The number of deposits and transfers in the three banks totaled 71, of which 23 were interbank transfers and 48 through credit memos.

The interbank transfers amounted to a total of P715.9 million, while those done through credit memos reached P1.69 billion.

The records showed that 48 deposits totaling P1.7 billion, including a deposit of \$1.9 million, were recorded at the BPI Julia Vargas and Edsa Greenhills branches.

At the BPI branches, the highest deposit was P55,131,747.32 and the lowest, P953,511.29.

The bank records also showed that in several transactions the same amount was entered in two different accounts on the same day. For instance, P49.28 million was deposited in two different accounts at BPI Edsa Greenhills on May 22, 2007.

In another instance, four transfers of the same amount (P41.72 million) were made in just one day at BPI Julia Vargas.

On March 28, 2014, Duterte's 69th birthday, seven transactions amounting to P193.71 million were credited to his account at BPI Julia Vargas.

That year, the BPI Julia Vargas accounts contained P227.41 million but was not included in Duterte's SALN submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman for Mindanao on April 30, 2015.

All the accounts of father and daughter, except for the BDO Unibank, showed Ecoland Subdivision in Davao City and P Guevarra Street in San Juan City in Metro Manila as their home addresses.

Mayor's salary

As mayor, Duterte receives a monthly pay of P78,946 (Salary Grade 30) under the government salary standardization law prescribed by the Civil Service Commission.

Failure to declare an asset is a ground for an official's dismissal from government service.

In his 2014 SALN, Duterte reported a net worth of P21,971,732.62—assets worth P22,971,732.62 and a liability of P1 million, a personal loan from a certain Samuel Uy.

Duterte earlier denied the existence of the BPI Julia Vargas accounts, but admitted on Thursday that he had two accounts there, one with P17,000 in deposits and another with less than P50,000. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Ben O. de Vera*

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The Manila Times

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Army deploys 158 new lieutenants

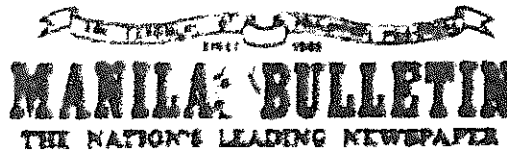
THE Philippine Army announced on Friday the deployment of 158 new lieutenants to the field units in line with its regular deployment program of new officers.

Col. Benjamin Hao, Army spokesman said more or less 30 percent of the officers will go to field units in Mindanao, while the rest will be distributed to the Army field units in Luzon, Visayas and the Army's special and support units such as Special Operations Command and armor units.

According to Hao, the officers who have recently completed their career orientation conducted by the Army Personnel Management Center were members of the Officer Preparatory Course class 64-2015, Officer Candidate Course class 45-2015, and Philippine Military Academy class 2016.

"The officers are now fully equipped with the right training, knowledge and skills to become officers of the Philippine Army," he added. **FERNAN MARASIGAN**

7th April 2016



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Rebel killed in Camarines Sur clash

By **DANNY J. ESTACIO**

CAMP G. NAKAR, Lucena City — A New People's Army (NPA) rebel was killed in an encounter with joint forces of the army's 49th Infantry Battalion and the Ragay Municipal Police

Station (MPS) in Barangay Lower Sta. Cruz, Ragay, Camarines Sur, last Wednesday.

The Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) said a police team, backed up by combat troops, was about to serve an arrest warrant on four

suspected NPA guerrillas when they came under fire in the area.

A brief gun battle ensued until the rebels withdrew deeper into the remote village. They left behind their slain comrade, who has yet to be identified, and two .38-caliber pistols.

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2 terrorists slain in Sarangani clash

Two suspected members of a terrorist group were killed in an encounter in Sarangani on Thursday.

The still unidentified terrorists, were suspected members of Ansar Khalifa Philippines, which reportedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS).

Police and military operatives clashed with the group led by Mohammad Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, alias Tokboy, around 3 a.m., said Senior Superintendent Joseph Semillano, Sarangani police director.

Semillano said there was no reported casualty on the government side, but Maguid managed to escape.

A Barret sniper rifle, two carbine rifles, two rocket propelled grenade rounds, three 60 mm mortar rounds, an IS flag and materials used in making bombs were among those recovered at the scene.

– Mike Frialde

Seized cops, soldiers set for release

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Communist rebels will soon release the soldiers and policemen they seized in Misamis and Agusan del Norte earlier this month, a church official said yesterday.

Bishop Felixberto Calang of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and co-convenor of the Philippine Ecumenical Peace Platform, said they are coordinating with local officials of Agusan, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon to ensure that the release of the captives would push through.

Calang said Misamis Oriental Gov. Yevgeny Vincente Emano and Bukidnon Gov. Jose Maria Zubiri Jr. assured them that they would request the police and military to enforce a ceasefire in selected areas.

The NPA earlier asked the government to order a suspension of military and police operations before they release Senior Police Officer 1 Warren Coñales, PO3 Edwin Castor and SPO4 Rene Rombo and Pvts. First Class Glenn Austia and Diven Tawide.

Cesar Renerio, spokesman for the NPA-North Central Mindanao, said they set the release of the hostages between May 2 to May 8.

– Gerry Lee Gorit

www.inquirer.net

Another Maguindanao school bombed

by [Edwin O. Fernandez](#)

COTABATO CITY, Philippines—Another elementary school in Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao was bombed Thursday night by still unidentified persons—believed to be the same gunmen who strafed and bombed six elementary schools there last Wednesday, police said.

READ: [6 Maguindanao schools bombed](#)

Senior Inspector Wendylyn Banico, chief of the Sultan Mastura municipal police, said the seventh rifle grenade attack occurred at Tamboc Elementary School around 10 p.m. Nobody was hurt in the attack.

Colonel Earl Badiac, commander of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade, said he has ordered the deployment of more troops as peacekeepers to ensure that the elections in the town would push through.

Despite the incidents, Kuraís Dali, Sultan Mastura election officer, said the town has not been placed under Comelec control. "Not all schools buildings were bombed, there are still other schools that can be used on election day," she said.

READ: [6 Maguindanao poll precincts bombed](#)

Citing intelligence information, Senior Inspector Ronald de Leon, the spokesperson of the police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PNP-ARMM), said that an armed group wanted the town to be placed under Comelec control so that voting precincts will be clustered, which was why it launched the attacks:

He did not provide additional details.

Four candidates were aspiring to become mayor of the town of 9,000 voters, he said.

De Leon said the investigation on the matter was continuing. *RAM*

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10 NPA rebels sumuko

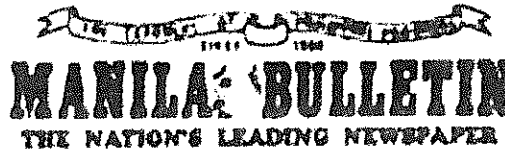
DAVAO CITY – Sampung miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) sa Davao region ang sumuko sa tropa ng gobyerno nitong buwan ng Abril. Naganap ang sunud-sunod na pagsuko ng mga komunista rebelde sa kalagitnaan ng malawakang military operation na inilunsad ng 10th Infantry (Agila) Division laban sa mga armadong grupo sa pagbubukas ng taong ito. Sa isang pahayag na ibinigay sa mga miyembro ng media dito, sinabi ni information officer Captain Rhyen Batchar na tatlo sa mga rebelde ang sumuko sa military units noong Abril 24 at Abril 28. Isinuko rin nila ang kanilang M1 Garand rifle at dalawang M-16 Armalite rifles. Nitong Huwebes, isang alyas Jef at alyas Noel, miyembro ng Guerrilla Front 53 ng Southern Mindanao Regional Committee (SMRC) ng NPA, ang sumuko sa mga elemento ng 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion sa Barangay Batobato, bayan ng President Roxas. Nagbalik loob din ang isang alyas Roy, 38, miyembro ng Guerrilla Front 27 ng SMRC, sa tropa ng 71st Infantry Battalion in Barangay New Visayas, Mawab, Compostela Valley, noong Abril 24. Noong Abril 26, isang alyas Kid, 34, ang sumuko sa 68th Infantry Battalion dala ang kanyang .45-caliber pistol sa Barangay Sto. Nino, Talaingod town. Noong nakaraang March 23 at Abril 14, anim na rebelde, kasama ang dalawang binatilyo, ang sumuko sa 73rd Infantry Battalion and Task Force Gensan of the 1002nd Brigade sa General Santos City, ayon kay Batchar. **(Alexander Lopez)**

NPA rebel patay sa CamSur clash

CAMP G. NAKAR, Lucena City – Patay ang isang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA) nang sumiklab ang sagupaan sa pagitan ng rebeldeng grupo at magkasanib na tropa ng 49th Infantry Battalion at Ragay Police sa Barangay Lower Sta. Cruz, Ragay, Camarines, nitong maghahatinggabi ng Miyerkules, ayon sa Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM). Napag-alaman na isilabi sana ng tropa ng gobyerno ang isang arrest warrant nang paputukan sila ng baril ng apat na rebelde. Gumanti ng putok ang mga sundalo at pulis na naging dahilan para umatras ang mga rebelde at iwanan ang napatay nilang kasamahan. Na-recover din sa lugar ng pinaglabanan ang dalawang .38-caliber pistols. "The NPA remains as the most potent threat group to the peace and security during the elections," sabi ni SOLCOM chief Lt. Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya. Inaalam pa ng mga awtoridad ang pangalan ng napatay na rebelde. **(Danny J. Estacio)**

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Armed escort for ship sailing to PH

JAKARTA (PNA/Xinhua) — Indonesian Transport Minister Ignasius Jonan said on Thursday ships travelling from Indonesia's Borneo to the Philippines will have an armed escort as piracy in the waters is escalating.

The minister stressed that if the vessels fail to have such security guard they should abort the sailing.

"It is a call for boosting security. So if there is an escort by an armed ship, the vessels may sail. But if not, it is better not to have the journey," Jonan said at the State Palace.

"It is to address the threat of kidnapping," he added.

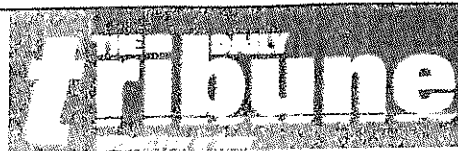
The sea lane from Borneo to the Philippines has been frequently used by ship carrying coals from Tarakan of Borneo Island to the Philippine.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has said that he is to hold regional talks with military chiefs and foreign ministers from Malaysia and the Philippines to boost security on their borders following the abduction of 14 Indonesian seamen.

The Abu Sayyaf militant group based in the Philippines abducted 10 Indonesian workers from a tugboat and a barge on March 29 off the coast of the Philippines, and demanded ransom.

Four other Indonesians were held hostage weeks after the incident.

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AFP to monitor security situation on election day

To closely monitor security situation all over the country during the election day, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is set to launch its own poll monitoring center inside Camp Aguinaldo where real time events from the ground are being transmitted.

Col. Noel Detoyato, AFP public-affairs chief, yesterday stressed the AFP monitoring center will focus on the security situation before, during and after the May 9 presidential elections.

The center, set up in the AFP Commissioned Officers Club, is equipped with the sophisticated broadband global area network capable of real-time video and teleconferencing via satellite.

It will be manned by military and police contingents under the

By Mario J. Mallari

overall supervision of Commission on Elections officials.

"Our election monitoring center will be operating on a 24-hour basis to complement the monitoring center that has been set up by the Philippine National Police (PNP)," Detoyato said.

According to Detoyato, the center has been undergoing system test and evaluation for the last five days and is now ready to go on full swing operation.

"It will be manned 24/7 and in close contact through video teleconferencing with all AFP area commands, Comelec and PNP representatives will also be in the monitoring center," Detoyato said.

"This setup will be providing our decision makers real time information for real

time action and decision. This is incongruence with the task of ensuring SAFE (secure and fair elections) on May 9," he added.

Interconnected to all AFP area commands nationwide, the center is designed to receive information on actual events on the ground, particularly on the security aspect.

"We will be actively monitoring the prevailing security on the ground. Through the center, we can assess what necessary military and police actions will be taken if we have monitored election-related disturbances in any particular area around the country," Detoyato said.

Already available in the center are the delivery of voting counting machines in various parts of the country. They are culled per area command.

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AFP sets up poll monitoring center at Camp Aguinaldo

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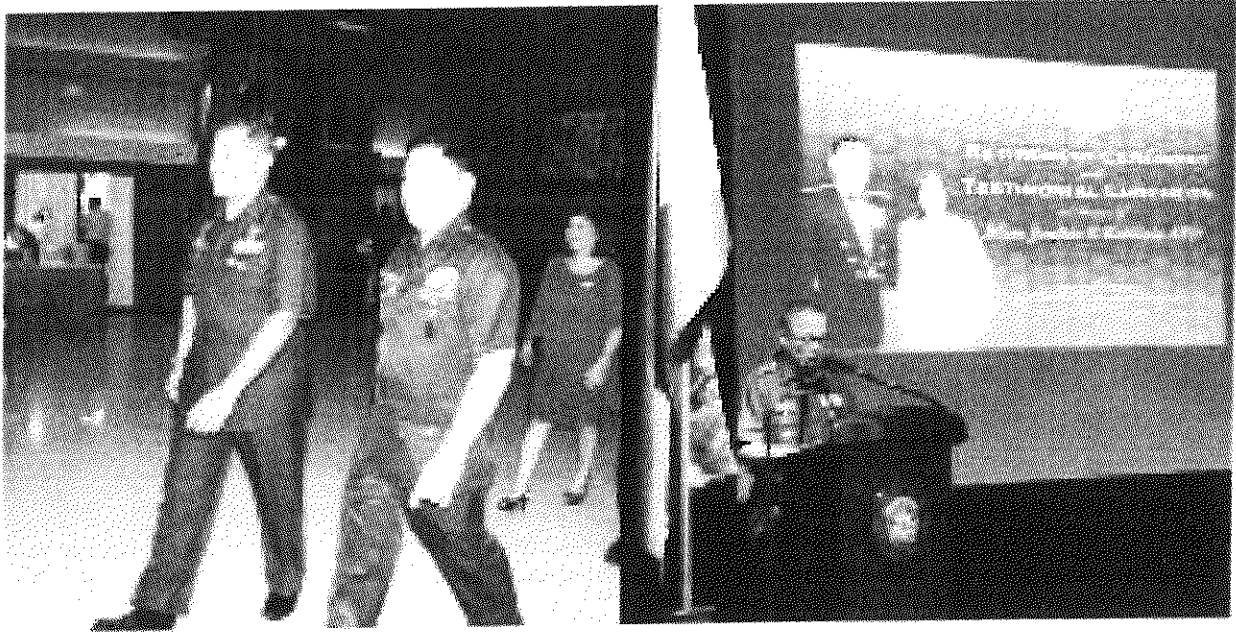
Jun I. Legaspi

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www.dwdd.com

DWDD: RETIREMENT CEREMONY II BGen Joselito E Kakilala AFP

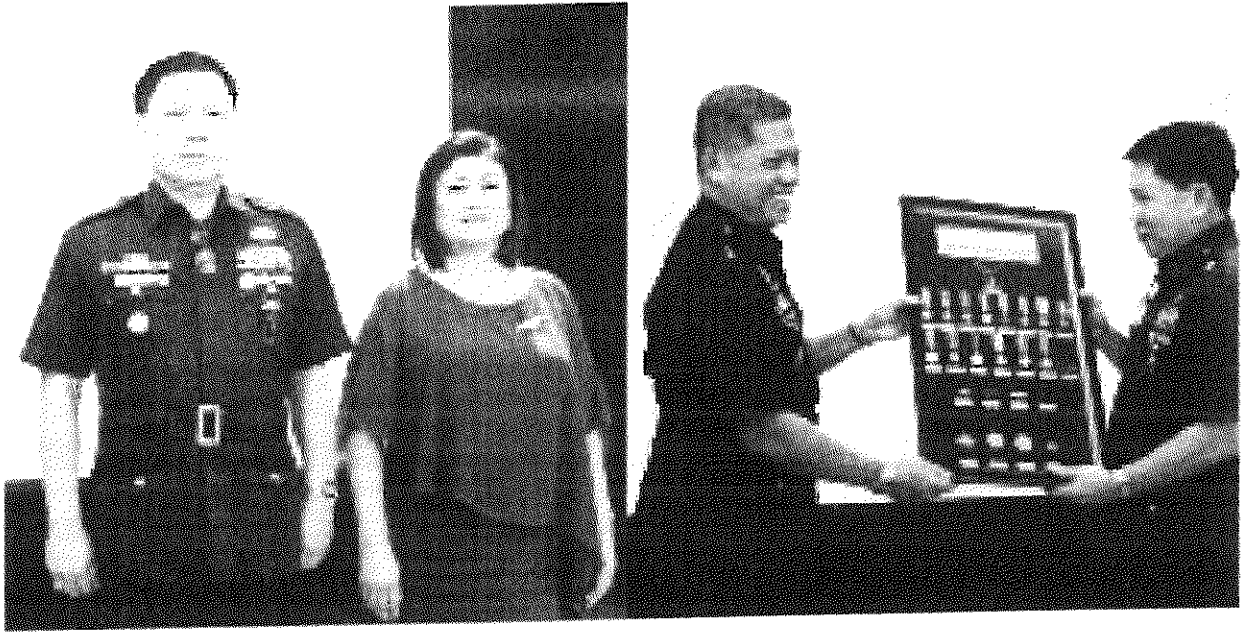
From DWDD AFP Civil Relations Service Website (Apr 28): RETIREMENT CEREMONY II BGen Joselito E Kakilala AFP



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – A Retirement Ceremony was held today, April 27, 2016, in honor of Brigadier General Joselito E Kakilala at the Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers Club at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

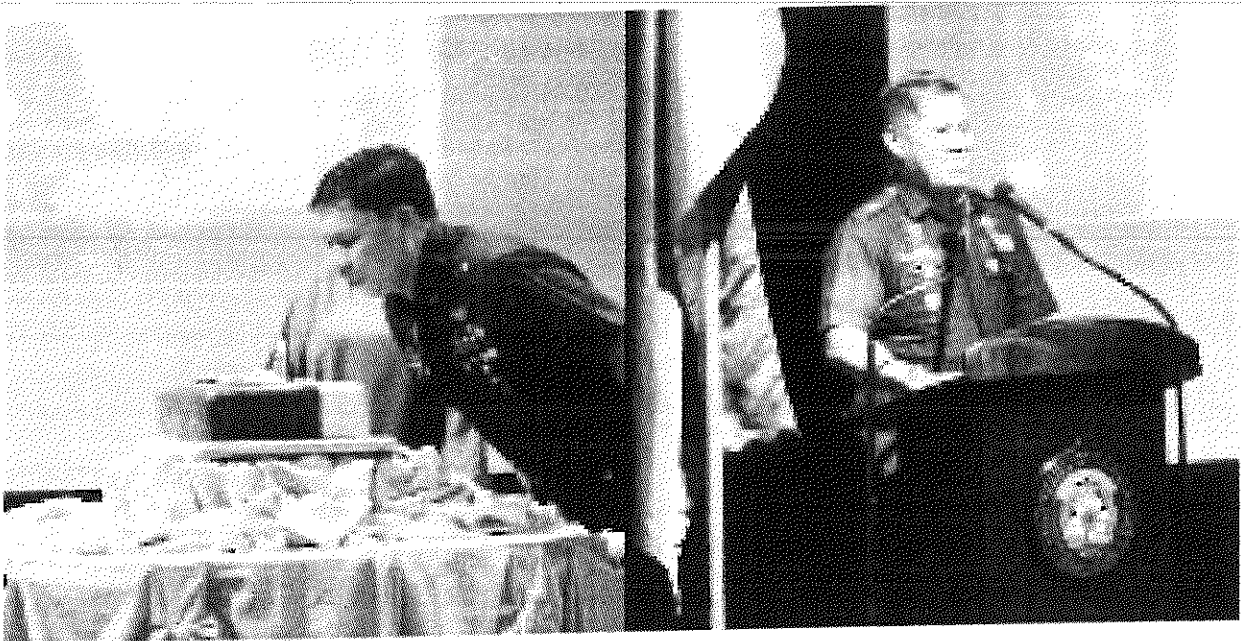
Major General Salvador Melchor B Mison Jr AFP, the Deputy Chief of Staff AFP, served as the Presiding Officer, while Brigadier General Reuel N Sorilla, the Adjutant General AFP, read the retirement order of BGen Kakilala.

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The honoree was presented with a Command Plaque, a Plaque of Honorable Service, a framed Philippine Flag and his framed medals by MGen Mison and was assisted by BGen Joel D Celino, the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (J1).

Mrs Sol, wife of BGen Kakilala, was also presented with a Plaque of Appreciation for her undying support for her husband and the AFP.



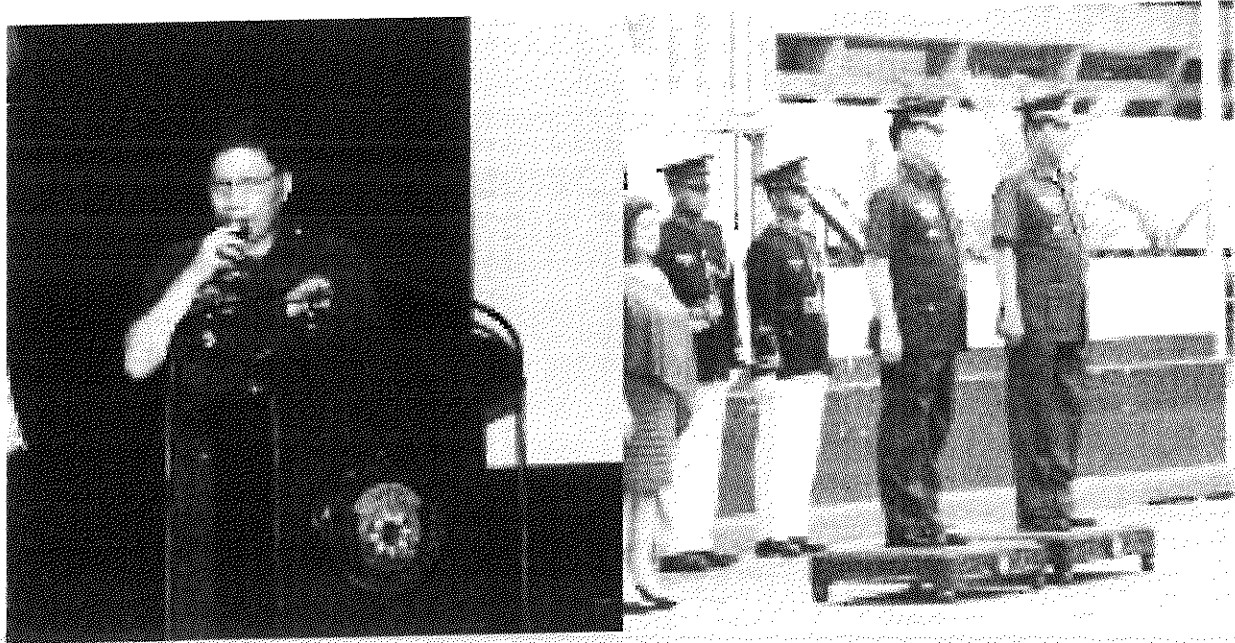
This was followed by a Testimonial Luncheon where an Audio Visual Presentation (AVP) of the life and exploits of BGen Kakilala was shown, together with messages from family, friends, mistahs and fellow officers.

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One Gen Kakilala's daughter, a niece and granddaughter rendered a dance number to the delight of the honoree and all present.

In giving their tributes, MGen Oscar T Lactao, the AFP Inspector General and a mistah from PMA Class 1984, lauded Gen Kakilala as a person who is "hardworking, focused, loyal, full of passion and enthusiasm." He stated that Gen Kakilala's retirement is not the end of it all but the just the start.



He also credited Mrs Kakilala as a lion-tamer who brought out the best in his husband through her support, since every successful man is a woman.

Gen Kakilala's son Jose Fidel, for his part, thanked everyone for their heart-warming support to his father whom he boasted as a "Good, Generous, and Gracious Father" for he never lets an opportunity pass to be with his family, teaching them, and is always a man with grace under pressure.

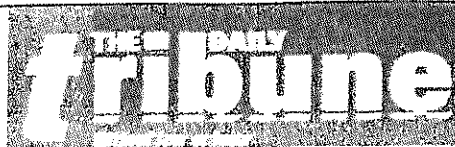
Meanwhile, MGen Mison, read the message of the acting AFP Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Glorioso Miranda, who reflected on the life of BGen Kakilala and formally recognizing his contribution to the institution who will always be indebted to him.

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In his response, BGen Kakilala expressed his heartfelt appreciation to everyone who helped him along his colourful career in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, from being a Second Lieutenant after graduating from the Philippine Military Academy up to being a Company Commander, Battalion Commander, and eventually as the Commanding General of the Civil Relations Service, AFP. Before ending his speech, he made special mention of the hardships and sacrifices made by his wife Sol, who was always by his side and supporting him through thick and thin and making sure that their children were brought up well. AES / MCAG

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Allow use of Malampaya fund for AFP's energy-related expenses

By Charlie V. Manalo

Even as it is being suspected of being one of the major sources of corruption, party-list lawmakers have stressed the need for an amendatory law allowing the use of the Malampaya Fund for the energy-related expenses of the Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP).

"The existing law, Presidential Decree 910, is silent with regards to the provisions of military support for energy-related projects to guarantee the security of critical infrastructures in the Malampaya gas platform and other energy related projects," Magdalo partylist Reps. Gary Alejano and Francisco Ashley Acedillo revealed.

The two former AFP officers are authors of HB 5481 which seeks to amend "Section 8 of Presidential Decree No. 910 to allow the financing of energy related expenses of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the use of the Special (Malampaya) Fund."

The lawmakers recall that the Special Fund was created to provide funds to finance energy-related projects and for other purposes that may be decided by the President.

The said fund consists of royalties collected from operations of the Malampaya gas and oil fields in the waters off Palawan province, the authors noted.

"However, such huge Presidential latitude became a

blanket approval for the past administration to abuse said power," Alejano and Acedillo lamented, adding that "the fund was allegedly drained to accommodate bogus projects of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of businesswoman Janet Lim Napoles, in collusion with government officials."

The existing law, laced with noble intentions but little guidelines, the authors said, was partially junked by the Supreme Court, as it struck as illegal the discretionary power of the President in utilizing said fund.

Prior to the High Court's decision clipping the discretionary powers of the President, the authors pointed out that President Aquino was able to prudently approve the release of necessary funding to the AFP in order to expand and fortify the defenses for natural gas exploration in northern Palawan.

"With the subsequent decision of the Supreme Court, the President could no longer appropriate funding from the Special fund for the AFP's energy related projects like securing the gas platform in off Palawan," they stressed.

To emphasize the critical role of the AFP, they explained that one of the basic and most urgent requirements for the peaceful and successful exploration and development of energy resource in the country is safety and security in the areas.

"Security provided by the

military is an indispensable requirement for the successful pursuit of any energy related project," the lawmakers added.

In fact, they said, the Malampaya gas and oil field, located near disputed waters off Palawan, remains secured because of the efforts of the AFP, particularly, the Philippine navy, which constantly patrol the area with ships coming from the Naval Forces West operating at Oyster Bay, Palawan, the country's first line of defense in the disputed waters in West Philippine Sea.

Furthermore, the authors said the measure seeks to ensure the continued viability of the country's energy program by including guidelines for the utilization of the Special Fund to include the financing of energy-related expenses of the AFP, such as but not limited to provisions for operational support, capacity-building, acquisition of vessels, machinery and material, bases and support system development and technology development, for the security and protection of the Malampaya gas and oil fields and other energy projects.

"It is now up to Congress to introduce the necessary guidelines in the law to authorize the use of the Special fund to finance the security-related expenses of the AFP," Alejano and Acedillo said.

The bill is under consideration by the House committee on national defense chaired by Rep. Rodolfo Biazon, himself a former AFP chief of staff.

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Use P1.5-B intel, confidential fund in crushing Abus – Recto

Government should direct a major portion of its P833-million intelligence fund allocation this year in finding Abu Sayyaf Group "leaders and lairs" and in stopping their recruitment efforts and expansion of areas of operation.

In addition to this intelligence kitty, there is a P702 million allocation for "confidential expenses" in this year's national budget, which, according to Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto, can also be tapped in monitoring the terrorist group's activities.

In all, there's a P1.5-million budget to fund intelligence-gathering activities against the notorious group's "status and intentions," Recto, a reelectionist, said.

Almost all of this year's intelligence fund, he explained, is shared among three major recipients: The Department of National Defense (DND) – P246 million; the Philippine National Police (PNP) – P306 million; and the Office of the President (OP) –

P250 million.

The DND's allocation is in turn distributed among the major armed services, while that of the OP can be used to fund intelligence-gathering projects on national security threats.

"In the arsenal of weapons against terror, the intelligence fund is very important. It can also be lethal," said Recto, a shared candidate of the Liberal Party, Partido Galing at Puso, and the Miriam-Marcos ticket.

Recto said the Abu Sayyaf, due to its recent beheading of a Canadian citizen it had kidnapped for ransom, "is clearly a national security threat", not only because of the barbarity of its crimes, "but also because of their potential to bring their war to urban areas."

"They are the most violent criminal syndicate in the country today. Their barbarity actually lands them among Asia's most brutal. We have a regional obligation to stamp them out and

wipe clean this blot on our national image," Recto said.

Recto said the next president should hit the ground running after this notorious group "and the present one must see to it that it is a degraded force before he steps down on June 30."

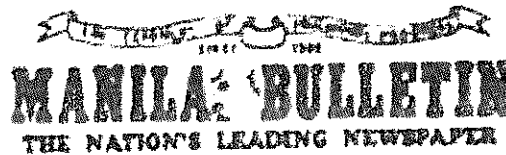
He said if the President Aquino's successor would be drawing up a list of criminals who must be neutralized, then without doubt Abu Sayyaf occupies the number one spot, Recto said.

Recto pointed out that Abu Sayyaf's victims "are not just counted by the number of body bags, which are already in the hundreds since it began its bloody business a quarter-of-a-century ago."

"What must be tallied too are losses they have inflicted on our economy. Lands are idled by farmers too afraid to till, vacation plans are canceled by tourists who are discouraged by bad publicity, investments are aborted," Recto said.

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Two suspected terrorists killed in encounter with PNP

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Police announced yesterday the death of two local terrorists, following an encounter in Sarangani Province on Thursday.

Supt. Romeo Galgo, spokesman of the Central Mindanao police, said the two still unidentified men were allegedly members of the Ansar Khalifa Philippines (AKP), a terrorist group with links to the notorious Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The two were reportedly under the command of Mohammad Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, or alias Tokboy.

According to Galgo, the AKP members were killed following the “conduct of law enforcement operations” at Sitio, Bulat, Barangay Daliao, Maasim, Sarangani Province at 3 a.m. Thursday.

Sr. Supt. Joseph P. Semillano, Sarangani Provincial Office Director, said operatives of the PNP Regional Special Investigation and Detection Team (RISDT), Special Action Force, Region 12 Public Safety Battalion (RPSB12) and Sarangani Police Provincial Office (PPO) clashed with Maguid’s group.

Semillano added that troops were able to overwhelm the AKP forces and even successfully captured the terrorist group’s camp, while killing the two members who remained unidentified as of press time.

However, he added that Maguid was able to escape at the height of the firefight.

Among the items recovered from the dead terrorists were a Barret Rifle with two loaded magazines, two carbine rifles with loaded magazines, two RPG rounds, a 60mm, a black flag bearing ISIS symbol, firing wire, a 60

mm fuse, a circuit for an improvised explosive device, approximately two kilos of black powder, a cup of anfo mixture, two nine volts battery, one side cutter plier, a soldering iron, a soldering flux and subversive documents.

The bodies of the local terrorists were brought by members of the Maasim Municipal Station to the Maasim District Hospital for proper disposition.

In November 26, 2015, Maguid and his members were able to escape following an encounter in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat between his group and members of the Philippine Marines.

The encounter resulted in the killing of eight AKP members, including Indonesian national Ibrahim Sucipto, alias Ibrahim Ali/Abu/Masud/Abu Muhammad/Huzaifa, who was a former leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah in Mindanao.

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Lawmaker calls for joint patrols in West Phl Sea

By JESS DIAZ

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares called yesterday for joint patrols that would include the Philippines and other claimants in the disputed islets, shoals and reefs in the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea.

He made the call in the wake of reports that China would soon build structures in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal off Zambales and Pangasinan.

are reportedly frequently patrolling the area and shooin away Filipino fishermen with water canons.

Colmenares said China's building binge in the disputed territories was "further aggravating the tension in the region and they should stop it."

"Last February, they set up surface to air missile launchers in Woody Island, which is

The shoal is a traditional fishing ground of fishermen from the two provinces, who call it Bajo de Masinloc.

"This is very alarming and we must act immediately. We should deploy Coast Guard vessels in the area and encourage our fishermen to actively report the presence of Chinese vessels in Panatag Shoal. We should also push for joint patrols with other affected

part of the Paracels claimed by Vietnam. If left unquestioned, China may deploy missiles in Philippine territory," he said.

"We are one with the Vietnamese people as well as other affected countries in this fight. A threat to them is a threat to the Philippines. The international community should now step in so as to de-escalate tensions and we hope that the international

countries like Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei because this is a bigger deterrent to China's plan," he said.

"Panatag Shoal is one of the richest fishing grounds of our fishermen and it would be very devastating for their livelihood as well as our economy if the Chinese build structures there," he said.

Chinese Coast Guard ships

arbitral tribunal at The Hague will decide soon the case filed by the Philippines on the West Philippine Sea issue," he said.

He pointed out that China has completed reclamation projects "in at least seven of our reefs: Panganiban (Mischief), Mabini (Johnson South), Gavin (Gaven), Calderon (Carteron), Hughes (Kennan), Malvar (Eldad) and Kagitigan (Fiery Cross) reefs.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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'King Kong' research ship from US Navy heads for PH

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FORMER US Navy research vessel which was used in a 1976 monster thriller film is on its way to the country as the Philippine Navy's first oceanographic research vessel.

The Philippine Navy has formally commissioned into service the 46-year-old US Navy ship to be used for hydrographic surveys and marine scientific research and exploration.

The BRP Gregorio Velasquez was formally turned over by the US Navy to the Philippine Navy last Tuesday in christening and commissioning ceremonies held in San Diego, California. The vessel is expected to arrive in the country in June.

She was formerly the R/V Melville (TAGOR-14) which was operated by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She was pledged to the Philippines last year.

The 279-feet-long research vessel appeared in the 1976 movie "King Kong" because of its hydroid propulsion drive at that time, which allowed it to move sideways.

As a policy, the Navy names its auxiliary research vessels after national scientists. Dr. Gregorio Velasquez, after whom the ship was named, was a pioneer in Philippine physiology and was named a National

Scientist in 1982.

Navy spokesperson Capt. Lued Lincuna said the ship was due to arrive in the Philippines by the third week of June after setting sail from California on Friday.

The Navy official said the research vessel would be used for hydrographic surveys and marine scientific research and exploration.

"Also, it will enhance our capacity and build our capability to support the environmental protection efforts and exploration of the country for economic purposes," he said.

Platform for collaboration

"It will also become a platform for inter-agency collaboration for partners in the academe and thus improve awareness of our subsurface environment," Lincuna stressed.

In November last year, US President Barack Obama pledged to donate the R/V Melville and the US Coast Guard Cutter Boutwell (WMEC-719) to the Philippine Navy as excess defense articles.

Commodore Narciso Vingson, deputy commander of the Philippine Fleet and defense undersecretary Jesus Millan, a former Navy flag officer in command, received the vessel.

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Ex-Marines commandant, nagpiyansa sa graft case

Naglagak ng P230,000 piyansa si dating Philippine Marines commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda na nahaharap sa kasong graft sa Sandiganbayan kaugnay ng umano'y paglustay sa P36-milyon pondo na inilaan sa pagbili ng uniporme at allowance ng mga sundalo.

Nagtungo si Miranda sa Sandiganbayan Third Division upang maglagak ng P200,000 bail bond sa kasong malversation

through falsification of public documents, at karagdagang P30,000 sa kasong graft. Nilagdaan na rin ni Third Division Clerk of Court Dennis Pulma ang kautusan sa pagbawi ng arrest warrant na inilabas ng korte laban kay Miranda.

Sinabi ni Pulma na sa Hunyo 7, 2016 babasahan ng sakdal si Miranda at mga kapwa nito akusado na sina Lt. Col. Jeson Cabatbat, Maj. Adelo Jandayan,

Capt. Felicisimo Millado, at Capt. Edmundo Yurong.

Kinasuhan ang grupo ni Miranda ng Office of the Ombudsman dahil sa umano'y pagkukutsabahan sa paglustay sa P36,768,028.95 na inilaan bilang Combat Clothing Allowance at Individual Equipment Allowance para sa Philippine Marines noong 2000.

Wala umanong natanggap na gamit at allowance at mga sundalo, ayon sa charge sheet.

Jeffrey G. Damicog

April 2016

The
Standard
DEFINING THE NEWS

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Defense plan for S. Korea rapped

BEIJING—China and Russia on Friday rapped US plans to put a missile defense system on the Korean peninsula, less than 24 hours after Pyongyang twice tested rockets thought to be capable of reaching American territory.

A series of missile tests and nuclear blasts by North Korea have pushed Seoul into talks with Washington about deploying the United States' sophisticated Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System or THAAD, which fires projectiles to smash into enemy missiles.

Beijing fears that the presence of more US hardware on its doorstep

will further tip the balance of power in the Pacific towards Washington.

"We both are gravely concerned about the US's likely deployment of the THAAD system in South Korea," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a briefing with his visiting Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

"The move goes beyond the actual defense needs of relevant countries," Wang said.

"It will directly affect the strategic security of China and Russia respectively if it is deployed," he added.

Lavrov condemned Washington for using the North's tests as "an excuse, as a

pretext" to deploy what he called Washington's "global anti-ballistic missile defense".

This week's North Korean rocket tests failed, but Pyongyang has now made three bids in two weeks to test-fly a Musudan missile, which is capable of striking US bases on the Pacific island of Guam.

"The current situation on the peninsula is indeed in a highly dangerous period," Wang said.

He added that proper implementation of UN resolutions barring the North from developing any ballistic missile-related technology is key to bringing the country to the negotiating table. AFP

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THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT

Crafting the AFP performance scorecard

By JESUS P. ESTANISLAO



IN a governance program, it is never good enough to identify strategic priorities. It is also absolutely necessary to specify the initiatives that must be undertaken in order to pursue a strategic priority; and once these initiatives have been specified, there are two additional steps that must be taken, i.e., agreeing on a measure by which progress from the initiatives being undertaken can be quantitatively assessed; and setting targets of performance that must be met at the end of each year. These three — initiatives, measures, and targets — would constitute a performance scorecard for each strategic priority.

In the case of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), as already noted, the AFP TR has put forward 15 strategic priorities (sometimes referred to as strategic objectives). The group that worked on proposing the Performance Scorecard for the AFP eventually settled on: eighteen strategic initiatives and 20 measures, with each measure having a target of actual performance to be delivered upon reaching the first base camp in 2016.

To illustrate the detail into which the performance scorecard drills down, the following may be cited:

— The 1st top-line strategic objective, “for the AFP to be capable of securing the country from aggression or invasion,” the strategic initiative proposed is: “to expand the sovereign

area covered for detection and identification of intrusions in the West Philippine Sea.” Two measures were put forward for assessing progress made through this initiative: a) percentage of air domain awareness; and b) percentage of maritime domain awareness, for which the Philippine Air Force and the Philippine Navy, respectively, were to be held accountable by the Chief of Staff. Targets for 2016, using these measures were set and entered into the AFP Performance Scorecard.

— The second top-line strategic objective, “for the AFP to be operationally successful in reducing internal armed threat to an inconsequential level,” the strategic initiative proposed is: for the AFP to secure the internal peace and order situation in virtually the entire country. The measure is straightforward: “the number of provinces put under normalized status such that the LGU (along with the Philippine National Police) would have taken the lead in addressing local peace and order concerns.” Again, a target for 2016 has been pre-set and committed, and this has entered into the AFP Performance Scorecard.

— The third top-line strategic objective: “for the AFP to be responsive to the need of providing humanitarian assistance and of conducting rescue and relief operations in times of disaster,” the strategic initiative is to increase the operational readiness of the AFP in rendering such assistance and in conducting such operations.

The measure is the readiness rating, and the target set for 2016 is a vast improvement from the readiness rating of only R3 in 2012.

On and on it goes for the twelve other strategic priorities or objectives: each one would have a specified strategic initiative; and each initiative would have a metric or measure of performance by which to assess progress; and each measure would have a target that must be met by the first base camp of 2016. On the way to 2016, there are annual targets for performance accomplishment.

Once the performance scorecard for each of the 15 strategic priorities included in the AFP Transformation Roadmap had been put together, the entire set had to go up the decision-making channels of the AFP until it reached the Chief of Staff. He had to look at the proposal very carefully. In effect, he had to decide whether the Chief of Staff, AFP ((CS, AFP) would be willing to take on the responsibility for delivering performance based on the commitments made in the AFP Performance Scorecard. After all, it is the CS AFP that at the end of the day has to be accountable for the overall performance of the AFP. The question posed was indeed simple and direct: Would the AFP Performance Scorecard be the CS AFP Performance Scorecard? Once the Chief of Staff had made that decision, the AFP Performance Scorecard was formally adopted: it had an owner, who takes responsibility for performance delivery using that scorecard.

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The Manila Times

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Editorial

Government must wipe out the Abu Sayyaf Group

WE have been sharing the grief of the family and friends of Canadian citizen John Ridsdel, savagely murdered on Monday by his Abu Sayyaf Group abductors after being held hostage for six months. We also strongly agree with the strong statement of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who said, "This was an act of cold-blooded murder and responsibility rests squarely with the terrorist group who took him hostage."

And we appreciate that Prime Minister Trudeau did not direct any of the blame toward our government, though he easily could have. Ridsdel's death was entirely preventable. Indeed, the ASG is wholly responsible for killing him – but the leadership in our armed forces, in our police forces, and in Malacañang are responsible for allowing it to happen.

If the ASG were a new phenomenon we might not feel such frustration at our government's apparent inability to come to grips with the problem, but that is not the case. The ASG long ago dropped

“We can no longer tolerate the savage greed of one small band of criminals or the ineffectiveness of our government ruining the image of the country before the world”

any pretense of having any sort of religious or political aims, and has simply become a kidnap-for-ransom gang of thugs, one that for at least the last several years or so we have been told by our government and other interested parties such as the US, numbers perhaps 200 or 300 members at most.

The group certainly is extremely vicious, highly experienced in the sort of "warfare" they conduct, and very much at home in the areas in Mindanao in which they operate, and they should not be taken lightly by the forces sent to fight them. By the same token, they remain small in number, are comparatively less well-equipped than our Philippine military and police assets are, and have not significantly changed their tactics or areas of activity in many years.

At this point, there should be little to nothing our armed forces and government does not understand about the ASG, and yet for all the official bravado about waging an "all-out war," or "relentlessly pursuing" the bandits, the law enforcement agencies are completely

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confounded by them. Despite these government efforts, the ASG still holds, at last report, as many as 18 other hostages, most of them foreign citizens, including three people in Ridsdel's group - a Norwegian, and another Canadian and his Filipina partner - who are now in even graver peril of suffering the same fate.

It is long past time for the government to declare "all-out war" on these savage hoodlums and actually mean it. Unlike the circumstances of the rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, its parent organization the Moro National Liberation Front, or the New People's Army, all of whom have legitimate social and political concerns (despite how wrong their means of pursuing them may be), there is no value in engaging in discussions or otherwise trying to understand the ASG. They are criminals of the worst sort, and deserve to be treated as such - pursued with every available resource and brought to justice if at all possible, or destroyed if not.

We can no longer tolerate the savage greed of one small band of criminals or the ineffectiveness of our government ruining the image of the country before the world. Because, as is almost always the case, it is not just a matter of image, but of lost innocent lives, and the imposition of terror for terror's sake on underserved and underdeveloped parts of the country.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. Ridsdel, and we fervently pray for the safety of his friends who have not yet been freed. May God also grant the strength of arms and of will to our leaders and our armed forces to finally rid our land of this scourge.

SATURDAY
April 30, 2016

The Manila Times

VOLUME 117
NUMBER 199

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

ONLINE NEWS

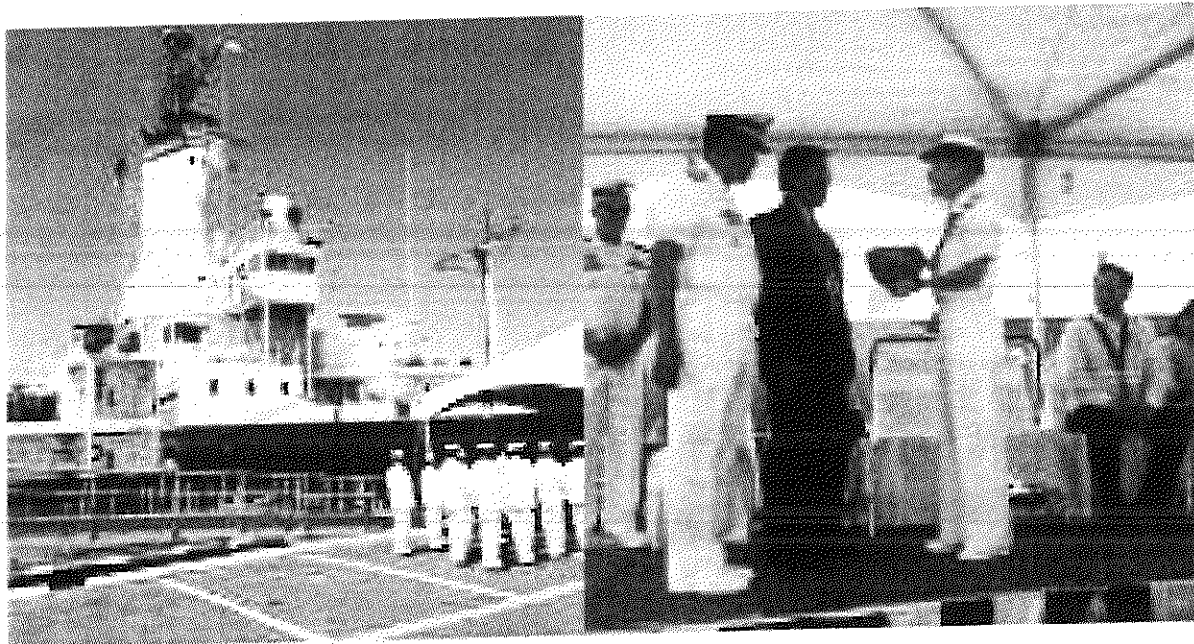
30 APRIL 2016

www.dwdd.com.ph

DWDD: BRP GREGORIO VELASQUEZ II PN Commissions Newly-Acquired Research Ship

From DWDD AFP Civil Relations Service Website (Apr 29): BRP GREGORIO VELASQUEZ II PN Commissions Newly-Acquired Research Ship

NAVAL STATION JOSE ANDRADA, Roxas Boulevard, Manila (DWDD) – Research Vessel (R/V) Melville, a US Navy vessel, was formally turned-over to the Philippines through a Christening and Commissioning Ceremonies, and was named Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas (BRP) GREGORIO VELASQUEZ (AGR-702) with the Philippine Navy (PN) contingent headed by Commo. Narciso A Vingson Jr, the Deputy Commander, Philippine Fleet and USEC Jesus C Millan, as representative of the Secretary of National Defense, in San Diego, California on April 26, 2016 (US Time)

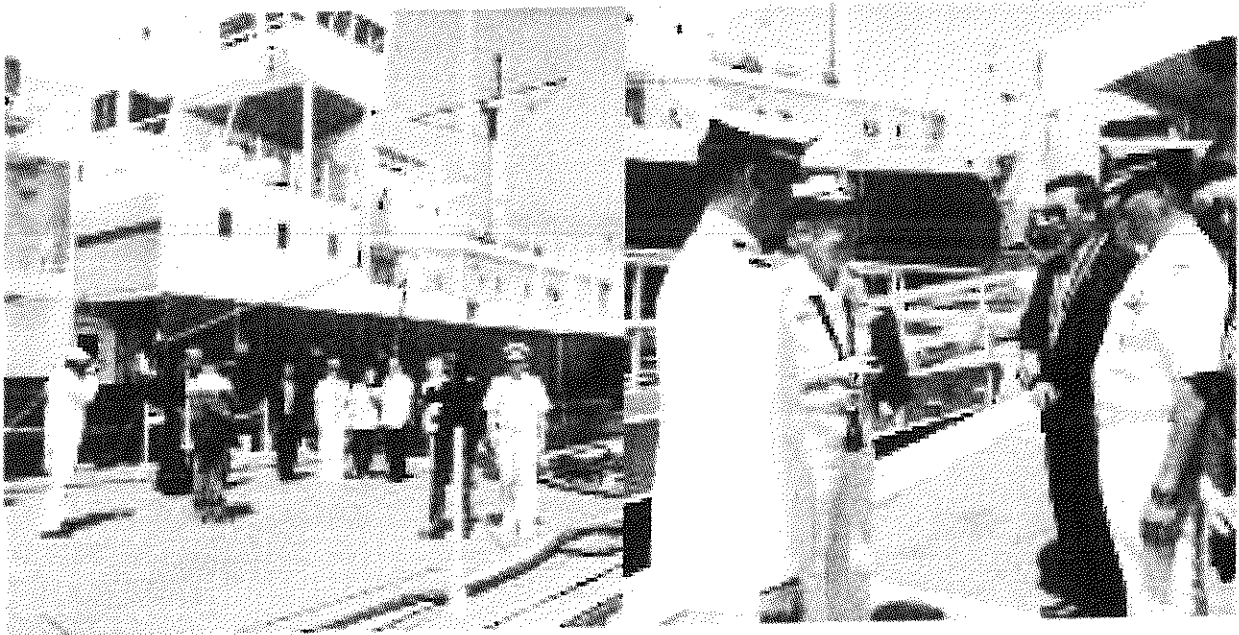


Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.



Auxiliary General Research (AGR) 702, the PN's first oceanographic research vessel, departed from San Diego today, April 29 (Philippine Time), for its voyage to the Philippines handled by its crew, comprised of more or less 50 PN personnel, who underwent preparatory training for familiarization and orientation on the operation and maintenance of various equipment aboard said vessel since March this year.

Said vessel is one of the two ships pledged by the President of the United States of America, Barack H. Obama to donate to the Philippines during his visit in APEC Leader's Summit last November 2015.



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



The research vessel will not only provide us capability for hydrographic survey, it will also become a platform for interagency collaboration for partners in the academe and thus improve awareness of our sub-surface environment. Aside from its primary mission, AGR-702 would also be a valuable platform in reviewing our Anti-submarine Warfare Capability. This acquisition also aims to address the issues in terms of marine scientific researches/surveys and to gather marine scientific data beneficial to naval operations. Also, said vessel will enhance capacity and build capability to support the environmental protection efforts and exploration of the country for economic purposes.

Per policy, auxiliary research vessels are to be named after national scientists, hence her namesake, Dr. Gregorio Velasquez, a pioneer in Philippine physiology. Dr. Velasquez was elected as academician on 1978 and conferred as National Scientist on 1982. He was conferred with a Distinguished Science Medal and Diploma of Honor from the Republic of the Philippines (1956), the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1956-57), Men of Science, Division of Biological Sciences in 1969, World's Who's Who in Sciences in 1970 and the Republic of the Philippines Cultural Heritage award in 1972. NPAO / MCAG

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

www.dwdd.com

SUSTAINED OFFENSIVE II 14 Abu Sayyaf Members Neutralized in Sulu



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has reported the neutralization of 14 members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf in the latest military offensive launched in the hinterlands of Patikul and Jolo towns in Sulu. According to Col Noel Detoyato, Director, AFP Public Affairs Office, the military has conducted aerial and artillery bombardment since April 23 against the bandit group and civilians on the ground has reported that an estimated 14 ASGs were killed and were taken away by their comrades.

No casualties were reported from the government side since this renewed offensive.

Based on reports from the AFP Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), there is no let up in their operations and they are making headways since government forces are currently occupying areas previously held by the ASG.

The AFP has increased their offensive against the bandit group after the beheading of the terror group of Canadian hostage John Ridsdel last April 23, whose body was recovered Wednesday, after the family and government refused to grant the Php 300 million ransom demand.

Operatives are still hot on the trail of the other group holding the other kidnap victims: Canadian Robert Hall, his Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor, and Norwegian Kjartan Sekkingstad, who were abducted last September 21, 2015 from the Ocean View Resort in the Island garden City of Samal, in Davao Del Norte.

Meanwhile military and police officials are maintaining a high level of alertness, even in Metro Manila, for possible retaliatory attack by the ASG, even though they still have to receive reports on such actions. **AES / MCAG**

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www.pna.gov.ph

ASG arms cache, speedboat recovered in Tawi-Tawi operations

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, April 29 (PNA) -- Government security forces pursuing Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bandits have recovered an arms cache and a speedboat belonging to the brigands during operations at Siluag and Mamanuk Islands, Tawi-Tawi, Friday early morning.

This was disclosed by Western Mindanao Command spokesman Major Filemon Tan in a message to the PNA.

Tan said troops from Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi carried out the operations which took place 5:50 a.m. Recovered were four M-16A1 automatic rifles, one M-79 grenade launcher, a US carbine, one .38 caliber revolver, one .357 Magnum revolver, an M-16A1 with an M-203 grenade launcher, a caliber 60 machine gun, and a .50 caliber Browning machine gun.

Also seized were assorted ammunition and a "jungkong" speedboat believed to be used by the ASG in their illegal activities.

"This operation was conducted as part of the focused military operations to prevent lawless activities in the area," Tan said. (PNA)

LGI/PFN

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

www.interaksyon.com

2 suspected Ansar Khilafa terror group members killed in Sarangani

By: Thom Andrade, InterAksyon.com

April 29, 2016 5:37 PM

InterAksyon.com

The online news portal of TV5

MANILA - Two still unidentified alleged members of a terror group that earlier claimed ties with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) were killed by an elite police unit Thursday in a remote village in Maasim, Sarangani Province.

The PNP spokesman, Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor, said in a press briefing the raid was carried out on a suspected hideout of the Ansar Khilafa Philippines (AKP) located in Sitio Bulat, Brgy. Daliao. The operation was carried out jointly by the PNP Regional Special Investigation and Detection Team (RSIDT), Special Action Force (SAF), Region 12's Regional Public Safety Battalion (RPSB) and Sarangani Police Provincial Police Office (PPO).

The AKP group, led by a certain Mohammad Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid alias 'Tokboy,' clashed with the lawmen at around 3am Thursday. Two of his followers were killed, but no one was hurt on the government side.

An initial report by Senior Supt. Joseph Sumilang, the director of the Sarangani Provincial Police Office, identified Maguid as the head of AKP in Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat area. He escaped during the encounter.

According to Mayor, Maguid and his men were able to escape in an encounter on November 26, 2015, with government troops in Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat. At least eight suspected AKP members were killed then.

Mayor said the fatalities included a certain Ibrahim Sucipto @Ibrahim Ali/Abu/Masud/Abu Muhammad/Huzaifa, an Indonesian National and who was a former leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in Mindanao.

The PNP spokesman said government troops are still verifying the identities of the two AKP members killed in the encounter last Thursday (April 28).

Mayor said government troops recovered a Barret (sniper) rifle loaded with two magazines, two units of Carbine rifle with loaded magazines each, two rounds of RPG, three 60 mm [mortar] rounds.

Also recovered was a black flag with the ISIS symbol, one improvised EBC, one 60 mm fuse, four pieces of .50 caliber ammo, one unit of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) circuit, about two kilos of black powder and one cup of Anfo mixture.

Also taken by the lawmen were two 9 volts battery, one side cutter plier, one soldering iron and Soldering flux and Subversive documents, the PNP spokesman said.

Mayor said the cadavers of the slain AKP members were brought by the Maasim Municipal Police Station to the Maasim District Hospital at the Poblacion.