

Army Vision: By 2048, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride



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07 December 2016

Wednesday

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

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THE PHILIPPINES

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 7, 2016 | WEDNESDAY

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON
SATBELLECS AFFECTING EASTERN SECTION OF CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN LUZON, VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
(As of 5:00 PM - Dec. 6, 2016)

LAOAG CITY 22 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO CITY 22 - 28 °C
EMILIO CITY 18 - 24 °C
SBMA/CLARK 24 - 31 °C
METRO MANILA 24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY CITY 23 - 29 °C
LEGAZPI CITY 25 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY 25 - 31 °C
TACLOBAN CITY 24 - 31 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA 24 - 31 °C
METRO CEBU 25 - 31 °C
CAGAYAN DE ORO 24 - 31 °C
ZAMBOANGA CITY 24 - 32 °C
METRO DAVAO 25 - 32 °C

SUNRISE 6:09 AM
SUNSET 5:26 PM
MOONRISE 11:56 AM
MOONSET 1:13 PM
FIRST QUARTER DEC 7 3:05 PM
FULL MOON DEC 14 5:06 AM
LOW TIDE 10:32 AM
HIGH TIDE 1:41 AM
MANILA SOUTH HARBOR
-0.62 Meter 0.80 Meter

Partly cloudy to 3 times cloudy with rainshowers
Partly cloudy to 4 times cloudy with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms
Light rain

TUE 6		DEC 6		TUE 7		DEC 7		TUE 8		DEC 8	
METRO MANILA											
	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	21 - 28 °C	20 - 28 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C
TUGUEGARAO											
	31 - 28 °C	31 - 28 °C	31 - 28 °C	24 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C
LAOAG											
	21 - 29 °C	20 - 28 °C	20 - 28 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 32 °C
BAGUIO											
	14 - 24 °C	15 - 23 °C	15 - 23 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 32 °C	24 - 31 °C
SBMA/CLARK											
	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	23 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C	25 - 31 °C	24 - 32 °C
TAGAYTAY											
LEGAZPI											
PUERTO PRINCESA											
ILOILO/BACOLOD											
METRO CEBU											
TACLOBAN											
CAGAYAN DE ORO											
METRO DAVAO											
ZAMBOANGA											
	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C	25 - 33 °C

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07 December 2016



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NBI: It was a rubout

Cops in Espinosa jail raid charged with murder

By GHIO ONG

Albuera Mayor Rolando Espinosa initially greeted the police team. Then he pleaded with them not to frame him. Moments later, the lights in his jail cell went out and gunshots were heard.

Yesterday, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) announced that Espinosa was executed by members of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Eastern Visayas who went to his jail cell ostensibly to search for guns and drugs.

"It was a rubout," NBI spokesman Ferdinand Lavin told reporters yesterday. "There was criminal intent and a conspiracy. It was a premeditated killing, the victims were helpless."

The NBI has filed murder charges against the CIDG team that served the search warrant on the mayor, who was then detained at the sub-provincial jail in Baybay, Leyte.

The serving of the search warrant before dawn last Nov. 5 resulted in an alleged exchange of gunfire and the death of Espinosa and another drug-linked inmate, Raul Yap.

NBI assistant director for Eastern Visayas Ruy de Vera said based on statements of inmates at the jail's Cell 2, they heard Espinosa greeting the

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NBI

From Page 1

police team from his cell, Cell 1, then pleading for his life and asking not to plant anything against him at around 3 a.m. on Nov. 5.

Cell 2 inmate Donald Palermo said moments before gunshots were heard from Cells 1 and 7, lights at Espinosa's cell were switched off by the policeman who shot him. Palermo later identified the officer as Chief Insp. Leo Laraga.

At the Senate hearing on Espinosa's killing, Laraga admitted that he fired shots at Espinosa.

Some policemen were also allegedly positioned in front of Cells 2 and 3 and signaled thumbs down, after which no more gunshots were heard.

NBI's De Vera added that based on the inmates' statements, before the shots were fired, some inmates were instructed to go out, with some going to the quarantine area, except for Yap, who was left inside Cell 7 and was later found dead.

The investigator said based on the inmates' testimonies, a policeman wearing surgical gloves and holding an unidentified caliber weapon was seen entering the detention facility after the gunshots, and no longer held any gun when he came out.

Jerry Abiera, NBI director in the Eastern Visayas region, maintained that the NBI's investigation found that only the policemen fired shots inside Espinosa's cell.

Based on the sketch of Espinosa's detention cell, gunshots

came from the entrance of the cell.

Also, two bullet holes were found behind the place where Espinosa was supposedly killed.

Abiera explained that one hole was found on the wall of Cell 1's comfort room, which was 3.15 meters away from where one gunshot came, and another was found on a wall near the double-deck bed, around 2.3 meters away from where another gunshot had originated.

"There were even hair strands on the hole near the double-deck," Abiera noted. "Based on the bullet holes, it would be impossible that Espinosa fired a single shot."

Lavin added the NBI agents were never able to identify the types of guns used in the shooting and which Espinosa allegedly used, nor retrieve closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage from inside the jail, since they went to the area four days after the incident.

Lavin, however, said there were no indications that the CCTV footage was tampered with.

He said "the pieces of evidence, both forensic and testimonial, are a match" and the NBI has a strong case.

The findings prompted the NBI to file multiple murder charges against Supt. Marvin Marcos, relieved head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Eastern Visayas, and his 17 subordinates, namely: Laraga, Supt. Santi Noel Matira, police Senior Inspectors Deogracia Diaz and Fritz Blanco; Senior Police Officers (SPO) 4 Juanito

Duarte, Melvin Caboyit and Eric Constantino; SPO2 Benjamin Dacallos and Aphinor Serrano Jr., PO3 Johnny Ibanez, Lloyd Ortiguesa and Norman Abellanosa, PO2 Niel Centino, PO1 Bernard Orpilla and Jerlan Cabiyaan, civil officers Cristal Jane Briones and Divine Grace Songalia; as well as six members of the police Regional Maritime Unit – C/Insp. Calixto Cabillas, Insp. Lucrecito Candelosas, SPO2 Antonio Docil, SPO1 Mark Christian Cadilo and PO2 John Ruel Doculan and Jaime Bacsal.

Marcos and his men served the search warrant against Espinosa for illegal possession of firearms and against Yap for possession of illegal drugs.

Lavin said charges of malicious procurement of search warrant would be filed against Laraga and Abellanosa, who had applied for the warrant, and perjury charges against Paul Olendan, who testified for the application of the document.

The charges were filed before the Department of Justice (DOJ) at 4 p.m. last Friday, Lavin said.

According to the NBI's probe, Olendan, a former inmate at the Abuyog Penal Colony, testified before the court that upon his visit to the Leyte sub-provincial jail last Oct. 28, he saw Espinosa holding a gun and Yap repacking shabu inside Cell 2, but Yap was actually detained at Cell 7 where he was found dead.

But his co-workers at the Leyte National High School in Tacloban City, hundreds of kilometers away from the jail in Baybay, saw him report for duty as reflected on his daily time record on the day

he supposedly testified before the court.

Also, records from the Baybay jail also found no Paul Olendan visiting the facility on the same day.

NBI findings also revealed that during the "Oplan Galugad" on Oct. 30, or two days after Olendan supposedly testified, only cellular phones were seized from the inmates.

Duterte to critics: Don't question my decision on Marcos

President Duterte has asked his critics not to question his decision to reinstate CIDG's Marcos, who was relieved after he was accused of being involved in the narcotics trade.

Duterte stressed that as president, he has control over the executive department.

"I do not have to explain to you, the whole Republic of the Philippines and the critics, why I made the order for him just to sit down and do not remove him. Well, actually, Marcos was eventually removed. I said place him there, there is a purpose. I said 'Do not ask questions,'" the President said during the lighting of a 12-foot Christmas tree in Malacañang last Sunday.

"When there is absolute control and supervision, I can modify and mend, revoke any order in this executive department," he added.

Marcos' unit was tagged in the death of Espinosa, who was one of the politicians with alleged ties to illegal drugs.

Marcos' subordinates claimed that Espinosa was shot dead inside his cell at the

Baybay City sub-provincial jail while resisting arrest. But the statement was contradicted by testimonies of some jail officers and inmates and some photos, creating suspicions that Espinosa might have been a rubout victim.

Espinosa's son and suspected drug lord Kerwin has accused Marcos of receiving millions from him.

Despite accusations that he was involved in illegal drugs, Marcos was reinstated to his post supposedly "for humanitarian reasons."

Philippine National Police chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa claimed that a friend had called him to request the reinstatement of Marcos.

Duterte eventually admitted that he was the one who asked Dela Rosa to reinstate Marcos, which was before the Nov. 5 incident.

Last Saturday, Sen. Leila de Lima said the President could be the top drug coddler in the country because he reinstated a police official with supposed ties to drug lords.

Duterte denied the allegation and maintained that his brutal drive against drugs would continue.

"So, they are questioning my motive. Now, they are assuming that maybe I knew about the operation then now they claimed I was the one who ordered (the killing of Espinosa) inside (his prison cell)," he said.

"Whatever the reason, that's my discretion. I promise the police and the military: do your duty, go out and find these criminals, arrest them if possible. But if they offer violent resistance, and you think that your life is

in danger, kill them. And that is my order until now."

Gag order on local media

The Regional Trial Court judge who heard the case against Espinosa's contact in Iligan City in 2014 issued a gag order on local media at the time, it was learned yesterday.

The judge had also detained a lawyer-radio commentator, who was cited for contempt, for three days, sources said.

Local police records showed that in 2014, Espinosa's contact, Lovely Impal, was arrested when she claimed a package from forwarder LBC.

Agents from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency who had prior intelligence information about the package, arrested her. The package allegedly turned out to contain some three kilos of shabu.

A case was filed in court, but was eventually dismissed.

When the case was being heard in court, judge Arthur Abundiente issued a gag order on local media because some radio commentators commented on the case.

A lawyer-radio commentator identified as Rejoice Subejano was cited for contempt and imprisoned for three days.

Former congressman Vicente Belmonte, then chairman of the House committee on dangerous drugs, asked for a review of the case after its dismissal.

Impal reportedly surrendered recently to authorities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and was brought to PNP chief Dela Rosa. – With Alexis Romero, Lino de la Cruz

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NBI: Espinosa rubbed out

24 CIDG, Maritime cops conspired to murder Albueria mayor

By BETHEENA KAE UNITE

Albueria, Leyte Mayor Rolando Espinosa was a victim of rubout and not a shootout, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said yesterday.

With the findings of criminal intent and conspiracy, the NBI recommended to the Department of Justice (DOJ) the filing of multiple murder and perjury charges

against 18 Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) police officers and six officers from the PNP Regional Maritime Unit 8 involved in serving a search warrant that led to the killing of Espinosa inside the Leyte sub-provincial jail in Baybay City last November 5.

"It was a rubout. We believed that there is a criminal intent. There was a conspiracy behind it," NBI spokesman ►15

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NBI: Espinosa rubbed out ◀1

Ferdinand Lavin said during a press briefing yesterday.

"The pieces of evidence and the forensic examinations conducted by the NBI had matched. We have a strong case," Lavin added.

Facing multiple murder are CIDG Region 8 chief Superintendent Marvin Marcos, Superintendent Noel Matira, Chief Inspector Leo Laraga, Senior Inspectors Deogracia Diaz and Fritz Blanco, Senior Police Officers Melvin Cayobit, Eric Constantino, Benjamin Dacallos, Juanito Duarte and Alphinor Serrano Jr., police officers Johnny Ibanez, Norman Abellanos, Niel Centino, Bernard Orpilla, Lloyd Orfugesa, Jerlan Cabiyaan, Crista Gisima and Divine Grace Songalia. Likewise facing the same charges are PNP Regional Maritime Unit 8 personnel Chief Inspector Calixto Canillas Jr., Inspector Lucresito Candelosas, and police officers Antonio Docil, Mark Cadilo, John Ruel Daculan, and Jaime Bacsal.

Perjury charges

Laraga, Abellanos, and Paul Olandan are also facing perjury charges for

allegedly lying under oath during court proceedings for the issuance of a search warrant.

The NBI debunked all of Olandan's claim.

Olandan had testified that he saw Espinosa holding a gun while sitting on his bed, and Raul Yap repacking shabu at cell No. 2 on October 28, 2016. Yap was likewise killed.

An "Oplan Galugad" on the cells was conducted on Oct. 30, 2016, which yielded nothing but cell phones from the cells.

"It was, therefore, impossible for Espinosa and Yap to possess these firearms and illegal drugs inside their respective cells on the night of the supposed implementation of the search warrants," the NBI stated.

The NBI further said that the application for search warrant was maliciously obtained by the applicants since the deponent's affidavit was perjured.

The NBI found out that Olandan's claim that he entered the Leyte-sub provincial jail never took place on Oct. 28, 2016.

The supervisor and co-workers of Olandan at the Leyte National High

School testified before NBI agents that on the day Olandan allegedly saw Espinosa and Yap, he had reported for work that whole day. His daily time record and raw data of biometric also revealed the same.

Other inmates also claimed that Yap had never, even once, left his cell to go to cell No. 2 to repack shabu.

No shootout

Based on the findings revealed by NBI Region 8 Director Jerry Abiera, the bursts of gunfire heard in the early morning of November 5 emanating from the cell No. 1, where Espinosa was detained, was not due to a shootout.

Abiera said an inmate, Donald Palermo, who was at cell No. 2, told NBI agents that police officers, prior to the killing, entered the cell of Espinosa, turned off the lights, and then "simultaneously gunshots followed."

The NBI investigation also revealed that a police officer was seen positioned near the cell No. 2 and No. 3, and giving a thumb-down signal to other operatives after the bursts of gunfire.

the operatives were standing."

NBI agents elaborated that if Espinosa initiated a shootout, he could have fired toward the door.

Police claimed that upon entering the cell, Espinosa fired shots at the operatives.

But NBI findings showed that it was impossible for Espinosa to retaliate by firing at the walls away from the police officers.

"Because he knew his cell, he could have known where to fire his shots if he retaliated," Lavin said.

Bullet hole No. 1 was seen on the left side wall of the cell which is 2.30 meters away from the door. While another bullet hole (No. 2) was seen near the comfort room at the back portion of the cell.

It was also disclosed that a hair strand of Espinosa was found on the bullet hole No. 1.

Abiera further disclosed that the bullet wounds on Espinosa's body was fired within a seven-inch distance.

Dayan to reveal more

Meanwhile, Senator Leila de Lima's

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since he promised he will make himself available we will just allow him to go back home," Lacson added.

The senator said Dayan was escorted back to Pangasinan, together with his wife and children who were also at the Senate.

"We advised him to compose himself, to rest his mind so that he can remember the things he's supposed to remember. I think that's the proper approach to help reboot his memory because it's clear he is getting confused," Lacson told reporters.

He said Dayan wanted to say a lot of things during Monday's proceedings but he had no opportunity to do it.

"If there would be another hearing, I'm sure he would reveal some more information," the senator said.

Lacson said they are convinced that Dayan is having a hard time recollecting the transactions and activities he had with de Lima when he was still working under the former Department of Justice (DOJ) secretary.

Both De Lima and Dayan have admitted they were in a relationship for seven years.

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Palermo also claimed that when operatives were already inside the cell, Espinosa was heard saying, "Maawa po kayo. Huwag ninyo akong lagyan."

Palermo also identified Laraga as the one who shot Espinosa.

After the "simultaneous gunshots" a policeman wearing gloves was seen entering Espinosa's cell holding a firearm. When the police officer came out, he was no longer holding the firearm, the findings showed.

Prior to the alleged shootout, other inmates at cell No. 7, where Yap was detained, were ordered to get out. Yap was left alone in the cell.

Lavin said a security camera footage that could have supplemented the findings was not obtained because the external drive where the footage was stored was nowhere found.

Espinosa knew his cell

Abiera further said that if there was a shootout, Espinosa could have fired at the right directions and not meters away from the door.

Investigation showed that two bullet holes that were found inside the cell were "too far away from the cell's door where

former driver-lover, Ronnie Dayan, who was cited in contempt, was freed from detention and allowed to go home yesterday by the Senate Public Order and Dangerous Drugs Committee after vowing to reveal more information.

Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, chair of the committee chair conducting an inquiry into the killing of Mayor Espinosa, said the Senate panel has effectively lifted the contempt charges against Dayan since he has promised to make himself available at the next scheduled hearing.

It was Sen. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao who moved that Dayan be cited in contempt for allegedly lying to the senators when pressed about how he got to know Kerwin Espinosa, son of the slain mayor and a suspected dealer of illegal drugs.

Because of Pacquiao's motion, Dayan was briefly detained at the Senate Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA).

"He was cited in contempt because nobody objected yesterday (Monday, Dec 5)," Lacson said in an interview.

"After a briefing with him last night at the Office of Sen. (Vicente) Sotto III with (Sen. Gringo) Honasan, we agreed that,

At the fourth hearing into the Espinosa killing, Dayan finally had the chance to testify before the Senate and face off with Kerwin to whom he collected the ₱8million in protection money and campaign funds for De Lima.

After insisting the exchange of money happened in 2014, Dayan was forced to agree with Kerwin's testimony it transpired in 2015, after he was shown a photo of De Lima together with the younger Espinosa and his wife taken on Nov 19, 2015 that was uploaded on Facebook.

"I think he's so tired. I think in due time he'll be able to recollect. I hope after having fully rested marami pa siyang ma-recall," he said.

Asked if Dayan can recall if he and De Lima went to Leyte during those times to campaign, Lacson said the witness said yes.

"May na-recall siya na namasyal sila sa Leyte during those times. Sabi ko, siges isipin niyong mabuti ano ang mga lakad ninyo na di mo maalala," he said.

He won't, however, divulge information Dayan offered during the meeting, saying he would let the witness reveal this in the next hearing. (With a report from Hannah L. Torregozo)

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Panay has new army commander

By TARA YAP

ILOILO CITY — Colonel Pio Diñoso III is now the commander of the 301st Infantry Brigade (301 IB), the Philippine Army that covers Panay and Guimaras Islands.

Diñoso replaced Brigadier General Eric Uchida during a Dec. 5 change-of-command ceremony at Camp Hernandez in Dingle town, Iloilo province.

In his speech, Diñoso vowed to continue the directions set by Uchida in further reducing the strength of the New People's Army (NPA) in Antique, Capiz and Iloilo provinces.

Aklan and Guimaras provinces have been declared insurgency-free.

Brigadier General Jon Aying, the new commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID), reiterated that communist insurgency can be irrelevant and development can thrive with the "Seven Angels of Change" approach.

This integrates peace building; security sector reform initiatives; legitimate use of force; integrated community public safety system; upholding the rule of law; grass-roots community development; and disaster risk reduction.

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RIT gunmen kill Army officer, 4 drug suspects

By JEFFREY C. TIANGCO

MOTORCYCLE-RIDING gunmen killed a retired Army officer and four drug suspects in separate shooting incidents Monday and yesterday in Pasay and Makati cities.

Killed were retired Army Lt. Reynaldo Ferrer, 61, of Corregidor St. Bgy Guadalupe Nuevo, Ace and Randy Goroyon, both 18, of Bgy San Isidro, both in Makati City, Christopher Dalantar, 31, tricycle driver, and Leonora Donina, 52, of 2297, FB Harrison St., Bgy 13, both of Pasay City.

Police said Ferrer died while being treated at Saint Luke's in Bonifacio Global City due to two cal .45 bullet wounds. The gunmen quickly escaped after the incident.

SPO2 Rico Caramat,

officer-on-case, said the incident took place at 11:38 a.m. at the corner of Urdaneta Street and Magsaysay Avenue, Bgy Guadalupe Nuevo.

Police said the victim was standing on the sidewalk when a gunman suddenly appeared and shot him at close range.

The gunman then ran towards a waiting motorcycle and sped away.

Police said the killing could be related to the victim's security agency business but refused to give details.

Earlier at 1 a.m., Ace and Randy, who were both on the police drug watchlist, were shot dead on Rocyceller St., Bgy San Isidro, by four alleged members of the Deadly Death Squad (DDS) riding on two motorcycles.

The victims' head and bodies were riddled with bullets. Police recovered 20 empty shells for unknown

caliber of gun at the scene.

Witnesses told police that the victims were just standing on the sidewalk when the suspects came and for no apparent reason fired at them successively, then sped away.

Relatives of the victims, who admitted that both were using drugs, rushed them to San Juan de Dios Hospital where they were declared dead on arrival.

At 8:30 p.m. Monday, Dalantar was shot dead at the corner of Chico and Guyabano Sts. in Pasay City.

Police said Dalantar suffered gunshot wounds in the head and body.

Residents in the area told police that they heard six successive gunshots and when they checked, they found Dalantar sprawled dead in a pool of his own blood on the ground.

Evelyn Viscarrabago, mother of the victim, told

police that her son, who already surrendered to the police "Oplan Tokhang," was fetched from their house by a certain Nike and John for still unclear reasons.

Earlier at 2:20 p.m., police said Donina, an alleged drug pusher, was shot in the head at close range by DDS gunmen in front of a convenience store at the corner of FB Harrison and Arnaiz (former Libertad) Avenue, Pasay City.

Donina was declared dead on arrival at Pasay City General Hospital.

Domingo, husband of the victim, told police that they were talking to a friend, Fernando Salazar, when the suspects arrived.

He said the back rider alighted, approached his wife from behind and shot her. He added that the suspects sped away after the shooting incident.

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Army ranger killed in clash with Maute group

ZAMBOANGA CITY – An Army ranger was killed in a firefight with around 20 members of the Maute group on Monday afternoon.

Maj Filemon Tan Jr, spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said the soldier was the lone fatality from government forces since the clashes started last week.

Tan said 38 soldiers were wounded while 63 were killed and 17 wounded from the Maute group as of yesterday.

A police commando was wounded when the militants fired at police and

military personnel during a raid on the house of Farhana Maute, mother of the leaders of the Maute group, at around 1.30 a.m. yesterday.

War materials and explosives were reportedly seized from the house.

Meanwhile, security sources said Abdullah Makaapar, alias Commander Bravo, former commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front 102nd base command, and his followers were monitored to have visited the camp of the Maute group in Butig on several occasions.

– Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

AARM 2016 | Top Rifle Shooter is Filipino

Alvin Santiago



CAPAS, Tarlac (DWDD) – Staff Sergeant Rodney Rizano is named Asean Armies Rifle Meet 2016 (AARM2016) top rifle shooter besting 99 others from 10 ASEAN Armies in the overall individual championship.

Setting two new AARM records (197/200 in match 1 and 99/100 in match 2), Sanoy gets his 5th Gold Medal for the overall individual championship for rifle category.

Sanoy started shooting for team Philippines in 1999.

With him at the TOP 5 overall were:

- No. 2 Sgt Sugeng Widodo IND (Silver)
- No. 3 1LT Denny Mentu IND (Bronze)
- No. 4 Ssg Rudy Edas PHI (Bronze)
- No. 5 Cpl Ariel Taganait PHI (Bronze)



<http://metrocebu.com.ph/>

PHL Medal Tally in Ongoing 26th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet Now at 21

Date Posted: December 5, 2016 | By PNA



Philippine Army (PA) marksmen have compiled an impressive record bagging six gold, six silver and nine bronze medals in the ongoing 26th ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) which is being held at Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac.

Capt. Alberto Caber, Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) public affairs office chief, said the medal tallies are of Sunday morning.

It can be recalled that AARM 2016 was opened on Nov. 28 and will culminate this Dec. 7.

Caber said the three gold medals were earned in Rifle, two from Carbine, and one from Pistol (Men) event competitions.

Three silver medals were earned in Carbine, two from Pistol (Men) events, and one from Rifle event competitions.

Nine bronze medals were earned in Pistol (Men), 4; Pistol (Ladies), 2; Machine Gun, 1; Carbine, 1; and Rifle event competitions.

Task Force AARM commander Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino said that this annual event is all about friendship and unity among armies of ASEAN countries.

"Our Philippine Army shooters are using locally made firearms. At the end of this event, we are all winners here as this event strengthens bilateral relations among ASEAN armies, develop capabilities, and contribute to regional stability," he added.

Aquino is the current TRADOC commander. (PNA)LGI/PFN

<http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/>

Vice Senior General Soe Win attends 17th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting

Posted by Myanmar News Agency

Date: December 05, 2016



Vice Senior General Soe Win seen attending 17th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win attended the 17th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (17th ACAMM) at the Philippines International Convention Center in Manila yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by the Chiefs of Armies from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam and the Deputy Commander in Chief of Royal Thai Army.

At the ceremony, the Commanding General of the Philippine Army gave words of greeting and the event's opening speech, and special guest National Security Adviser Secretary Hermogenes C. Esperson Jr. delivered a speech and posed for documentary photos with the attendees. The generals who are attending the meeting discussed subjects of their countries. After the evening session, the Commanding General of the Philippines Army made concluding remarks. Generals of ASEAN Armies then signed the ACAMM Protocol.

Singapore will host the 18th ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (18th ACAMM) in 2017. Vice Senior General

Soe Win met with the Commanding General of the Philippines Army and Deputy Commander in Chief of Royal Thai Army at the Sofitel.

Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife attended a dinner hosted by Commanding General of the Philippine Army Lt. Gen. Eduardo M Ano and wife in the Luzon Hall of the Sofitel Hotel.

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Military integration with local disaster units in Samar, Leyte ongoing for quick aid during calamities

Philippine News Agency

Efforts are now ongoing to integrate the Catbalogan-based 8th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army with local disaster risk response units to ensure quick aid should calamities strike its areas of operation.

8th Infantry Division assistant commander Brig. Gen. Cesar Idio in a statement Tuesday said this can be done through more inter-operability exercises with the local and regional disaster risk reduction councils.

"For our part, we are looking forward for more capacity-building programs that we can work together as we prepare for the unknowns of tomorrow," Idio said.

He said such cooperation is needed considering that Samar and Leyte, the 8th Infantry Division's operational areas, are located in the Philippine "typhoon highway"

07 December 2016



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5 contenders to top AFP post as Gen. Visaya retires today

P. FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Ricardo R. Visaya will officially bow out of the military service today during the

Change of Command Ceremony at the AFP Grandstand in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Visaya, who will turn 56 on December 8, will retire from military service after more than five months at **►15**

5 contenders to top AFP... ◀1

the helm of AFP

Those reportedly in the shortlist to replace Visaya are: Lt. Gen. Glorioso V. Miranda, AFP Vice Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor B. Mison Jr., the AFP Deputy Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Eduardo Ano, Army chief, Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina, Air Force chief, and Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado, Navy chief.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the AFP, is expected to attend today's activity which will start at 2 p.m. He will be joined by other high-ranking officials of the military, the police and the government.

The president is expected to name

Visaya's successor as the 48th AFP Chief of staff.

Visaya, who will retire on Thursday after 37 years of military service, is a member of the PMA "Matikas" Class of 1983 that has thus produced three AFP Chiefs of Staff.

Prior to his ascent to the highest military post, Visaya held several key positions in the AFP. He was the former Brigade Commander of two prestigious Brigades – the 104th Brigade in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Lanao Provinces and Basilan, and 901st Brigade in Bicol Region. He was also designated as Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

Before becoming the 47th AFP Chief

of Staff in July 1, 2016, Visaya was the 28th Commander of the Southern Luzon Command.

Marine Col. Edgard A. Arevalo, the chief of the AFP's Public Affairs Office, earlier said that President Duterte already has a short list of names that will replace Visaya as chief of staff.

Arevalo said that all military officers with three star ranks or Lieutenant Generals in the AFP already has a shot at bagging the top AFP post. Even lower ranking officers might have a shot and be named AFP chief of staff.

"At the end of the day, the president will be the one to decide on who Gen. Visaya's successor will be," he said.

Farewell visits

Gen. Visaya has concluded his farewell visits to field units and saved the best for last in visiting the 4th In-

fantry Division Headquarters in Camp Evangelista, Cagayan De Oro City last Monday.

The outgoing Chief of Staff was given an arrival honors by the troops of the 4th Infantry Division. He was welcomed by its present Commander, Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal Jr.

"I trace the early part of my military career as a Lieutenant in this Division. Little did I know that I will be accorded the chance to command this illustrious 'Diamond' Division," Visaya said in his speech.

"Many other Generals who occupy key positions in the AFP from the 'Matikas' Class of 1983 trace their roots from this Division. I therefore cannot help but be nostalgic about this unit that has a special place in my heart," Visaya added.

Visaya expressed his gratitude to Army Core Purpose: Serving the people. Securing the land.

the men and women of 4ID whom he considered part of what molded him as a leader. He also advised the troops to continue the string of accomplishments that define what 4ID is named after.

Earlier that day, Visaya visited the 1st Infantry "Tabak" Division based in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur and urged them to reaffirm professional in their duties.

"Abuses and other malpractices of the old AFP will be things of the past. I will be pleased to retire comforted by the thought that I will be leaving behind a more professional, disciplined and modernized AFP," Visaya said.

"I exhort all of you to remain committed to your calling in defeating all threat groups and be the instruments of change our people deserve," Visaya concluded.

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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AFP chief retires today; successor still unnamed

BY VICTOR REYES

GEN. Ricardo Visaya is stepping down today as chief of the Armed Forces but Malacañang still has not announced his successor as of press time yesterday.

President Duterte will lead the turnover rites at the AFP's general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Among the reported top contenders are Army chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año, Eastern Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero, and AFP vice chief Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda. Año and Miranda are class-

mates of Visaya at the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1983 while Guerrero is from the PMA Class 1984.

Visaya is retiring a day ahead of the mandatory retirement age of 56.

The first AFP chief to serve during the Duterte administration, Visaya assumed command last July 1.

It is not the first time an incoming AFP chief remained unknown a day prior to his assumption. Gen. Hernando Iriberry's appointment as military chief was announced on the turnover day itself. Iriberry assumed the post of as AFP chief in July 2015 and

retired last April.

"As in previous changes in the AFP leadership, announcements are usually made at the last hour and adds to the anticipation and excitement of all our men and women in the AFP," said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla.

Visaya's designation as AFP chief was announced by the camp of Duterte a few weeks prior to his assumption of the presidency on June 30.

All the 10 three-star generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces are qualified to succeed Visaya, the military said.

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SoKor ready to boost AFP capability

By ROY E. MABABA

South Korea expressed its willingness to help boost the Philippines' armed forces modernization plan.

This came following the first official talks between the two countries' top defense and military officials in Seoul.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana was accompanied by Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General

Ricardo Visaya, and Philippine Air Force (PAF) Commanding General Lt. General Edgar Fallorina when he met recently with South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo and their counterparts at the Ministry of Defense in Seoul.

During the meeting, Secretary Lorenzana, who assumed his post upon the inauguration of President Duterte in June, proposed broadening current defense and military engagements in the field of personnel training and education, and

exploring possible joint exercises on disaster response and terrorism.

The suggestion was warmly received by Minister Han who instructed his Joint Chiefs of Staff to look into this matter.

Han also expressed appreciation to his counterpart for the Philippines' support during the Korean War and subsequent reconstruction, as well as Korea's current diplomatic efforts to counter the provocations of North Korea at the United Nations and other forums.

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Troops recover gun, explosives from Maute mother's house

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Joint law enforcement operations launched early Tuesday morning by the military and police against the mother of the Maute brothers, leaders of a terrorist bearing their name, led to the recovery of a firearm and several war and explosive materials in Butig, Lanao del Sur.

According to Maj. Filemon I. Tan Jr., spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), members of the Regional Public Safety Battalion (RPSB), the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and supported by the 65th Infantry Battalion under the

Joint Task Force ZamPeLan, served a search warrant on Farhana Maute.

Tan said the government team encountered stiff resistance from an armed group posted at Farhana's residence that resulted in the wounding of a policeman.

The military report did not say if Farhana was at the residence when the search warrant was served.

The operation led to the recovery of a firearm and several war and explosive materials from the side of the enemy.

On Monday, soldiers from the First Scout Ranger Company, while conducting combat operations, engaged about 20 members of a local terrorist group. Tan said soldier was killed in the encounter that erupted at 1 p.m.

Government troops were able to recover an rocket propelled grenade (RPG) launcher, several RPG ammunition, and a steel chainsaw.

The body of the slain soldier was brought to the 103rd Brigade Tactical Command Post and will later be transported to St. Peter Funeral Homes.

As of 7 a.m. yesterday, Tan said fire missions were delivered to enemy locations.

So far, 63 terrorists have been killed, and 17 wounded, as against the government side which suffered one casualty and 38 wounded-in-action.

Tan said the military continues to intensify the conduct of focused military operations to neutralize members of the lawless terrorist group.

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The Manila Times

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Firearms, explosives seized from Maute lair

MARAWICITY: The police and the military raided on Tuesday a house complex of the Maute family blamed for terroristic activities in the country and recovered firearms and explosives.

A Special Action Force (SAF) commando was wounded during the raid.

Reports said Police Officer 2 Rolando Redondo sustained injuries when he stepped on a booby trap bomb that exploded.

Arrested during the pre-dawn raid in Barangay Lilod Saduc here was a barangay (village) official identified as Hadji Amir Badio, 67.

The operation was conducted with search warrants at the houses of Farhana Maute, mother of other accused Abdullah Maute, Mohammad Khayam Maute, Abdulrahman Maute, Mahater Maute, Abdul

Aziz Maute and Hamsa Maute for alleged illegal possession of firearms and illegal drugs.

The police recovered from the house complex two 81-mm mortar cartridges and a Suarez shotgun.

The raid was conducted while military forces continued pursuit operation against the jihadist Maute group at the hometown of the Maute clan called IS Lanao while some government emissaries, backed by relatives of the Mautes, are trying to reach out to youngsters for possible ceasefire talks.

No other persons were found in the compound as it has long been abandoned since the family members were tagged as being behind atrocities in Mindanao.

MOH SAADUDDIN

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Firearms found in house of Maute brods' mom

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Several firearms as well as war and explosive materials were discovered inside the house of Farhana Maute, mother of two notorious bandits, during a raid by a joint military and police operation.

According to Army Major Filemon I. Tan Jr., the spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom), soldiers and policemen recovered two homemade bombs and other firearms as well as vital documents that will prove the terror

activities of the Maute Group.

Farhana is reportedly a chief financier of the terror group headed by his sons Abdul and Omar.

The Maute matriarch is known in their community as a former government contractor who was wealthy enough to send his children to the Middle East for their education.

The move however was believed to have led the Abdul and Omar to be radicalized and form the bandit group.

The town of Butig was freed from the control of the Maute group after several days of constant attacks and bombardment by the military

last week, leaving part of the town in rubble because of mortar fire.

More than 2,000 families fled their homes following the series of fighting between the terrorists and the government troopers.

An estimated 62 Maute group members have been killed while 37 troopers have been wounded in the military operation against the radical group.

Butig has been cleared of all Maute group elements Wednesday but civilians are not yet allowed to return as the area is still being cleared of improvised explosive devices and other traps laid by the bandits.

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SUNDALO PATAY SA BAKBAKAN

Recruitment ng Maute sa mga bata, 'di na bago—arsobispo

Hindi na nagulat ang isang arsobispo sa napaulat na pagre-recruit ng Maute terror group ng mga menor de edad bilang mandirigma nito.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni Ozamis Archbishop Martin Jumoad na matagal na niyang naririnig ang tungkol sa pagre-recruit ng mga grupong rebelde ng mga batang mandirigma kahit noong nakatalaga pa siya sa Basilan.

Sa isang panayam sa arsobispo noong 2014, sinabi niyang may dalawang dahilan kung bakit nahihikayat ang kabataan na

sumali sa mga rebeldeng grupo: kahirapan at kawalan ng gabay ng mga magulang

Sinabi ni Jumoad na mahalagang gawin ng gobyerno ang lahat ng makakaya nito upang makuha ang simpatiya "of our young in the side of goodness"

Naglabasan kamakailan ang mga video ng mga pisikal na pagsasanay ng mga binatilyo para maging mandirigma ng Maute terror group.

NALAGAS

Samantala, nakasamsam kahapon ng umaga ang militar

at pulisya ng mga baril at mga gamit sa paggawa ng bomba nang salakayin ang bahay ni Farhana Maute, ina ng magkakapatid na Maute, sa Butig, Lanao del Sur.

Sinabi rin ni Army Major Filemon I. Tan Jr., tagapagsalita ng Armed Forces of the Philippines-Western Mindanao Command (AFP-WestMinCom), na isang sundalo ang nasawi nang makabakbakan ng militar ang nasa 20 miyembro ng Maute, dakong 1.00 ng hapon nitong Lunes

**Leslie Ann G. Aquino at
Francis T. Wakefield**

67 December 2016



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Troop slain in intensified ops vs Maute

The military suffered its first fatality in the ongoing operation against the Maute group in Lanao del Sur after elements of the elite Scout Ranger caught up with a terrorist band in Butig town on Monday afternoon, reports said yesterday. The killing of a member of the Army's elite 1st Scout Ranger Company (SRC) happened a day after the Armed Forces of the Philippines leadership declared it has regain 100 percent control of Butig after more than a week of intensified assault against the Maute group. The identity of the slain Ranger was not made available. He was the first fatality suffered by the military after the launching of intensified combat operations against the homegrown terror group. Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said that elements of the 1st SRC were conducting combat operations at around 1 p.m. when they were engaged by more or less 20 members of the Maute group in Butig. Relatedly, various war and explosive materials were seized by combat police and military operatives during a raid at the house of Farhana Maute, mother of Omar and Abdullah Maute who are the leaders of the Maute terror group in Lanao del Sur. Armed with a search warrant, combined elements of the Army's 65th Infantry Battalion, Regional Public Safety Battalion, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and Joint Task Force Zampelan raided the house of Farhana in Butig at around 1:30 a.m. yesterday. The raid led to a brief firefight that resulted in the wounding of one policeman, whose identity was not revealed. Seized from the house were two 81mm mortar ammo, high explosive with fuse, tail and pin and a shot gun. **Mario J. Mallari**

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Rody on communist prisoners: No ceasefire, no release

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

President Duterte has instructed government peace panel chairman Silvestre Bello III to secure a ceasefire deal with the National Democratic Front (NDF) before he orders the release of detained communist rebels.

"Produce to me a signed bilateral ceasefire agreement and I will release them within 48 hours. You can take my word for it," Bello said in a statement yesterday, quoting Duterte.

"The President told us that once he

receives even just a facsimile copy of the signed agreement, he would immediately order the release of communist rebels," added Bello, who is also labor secretary.

Duterte made a campaign promise to reopen peace negotiations with the NDF, which is representing the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

Bello and panel member Angela Librado-Trinidad sought instructions from

Turn to Page 4

Rody

From Page 1

Malacañang after the President met with top rebel leaders Benito and Wilma Tiamzon in Davao City last Friday evening. In the meeting, the President said he would keep

his campaign promise to release detained communist rebels.

The NDF said 434 rebels are still being held in different detention centers all over the country.

Bello's panel submitted a list of 200 prisoners eligible for re-

lease under the new guidelines of the Presidential Committee on Bail, Recognizance and Parole. Twenty-five of them are elderly, sick and women.

During the traditional lighting of the Malacañang Christmas tree on Monday night, Duterte said he could not

release more than a hundred prisoners requested by the Left because the government has conceded so much already. But he would release old and sick political prisoners.

Rights advocates said the non-release of all political prisoners is a continuing violation of their rights.

"While it is true that President Duterte has effected the temporary release of 19 political prisoners in line with the peace talks, the non-release of all political detainees means perpetuation of the injustice against them which is promoted by a legal and justice system that has repeatedly failed them," Karapatan secretary-general Cristina Palabay said yesterday.

"Lest the government's use of the political prisoners as trump

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cards in the peace process will be seen as its vile attempt to set the stage to renege on its commitments and obligations, they should release all of them now.

"Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus Dureza said that President Duterte has walked the 'extra mile' on the peace process, unlike past administrations which didn't even move an inch to comply with their commitments and obligations. Sadly, Dureza and the government can't keep up with the pace and thus seems to be stalling both parties' peace efforts," she added.

Karapatan pointed out that the government under the Duterte administration upheld all previously signed agreements, including the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which explicitly states the obligation of the government to uphold the rights of citizens against unwarranted and unjustified arrest and detention and to correct the injustice against them.

"We also remind President Duterte and Secretary Dureza that peace efforts, specifically on the release of political prisoners, are not charity cases. It is an immediate obligation to render justice to the political prisoners by releasing them. So while President Duterte has taken bold steps to pursue peace talks with the NDF, these steps won't become significant if his people are taking their sweet time," Palabay said.

Both the government and the NDF have declared their own unilateral ceasefires, but the two camps are complaining about reported violations in the field.

For Bello, until both panels agree to a set of guidelines, "there are technically no violations."

He said it is to the best interest of combatants from both sides, specially the civilians caught in the middle of the armed conflict, that a "formal ceasefire is in place so that we can monitor any claims of violations." – With Rhodina Villanueva, Perseus Echeminada

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

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<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

HONORING GEN VISAYA | AFP Change of Command & Testimonial Parade

Alvin Santiago



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines will be conducting a Change of Command Ceremony and Testimonial Parade for outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya.

This will be held at the AFP General Headquarters Grandstand at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

President and AFP Commander-in-Chief Rodrigo Roa Duterte will be the Guest of Honor and Presiding Officer. AES / MCAG

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

HIGH ENDURANCE CUTTER | Arrival of BRP Andres Bonifacio (FF17)

Alvin Santiago



MANILA (DWDD) – The Arrival Ceremony to formally welcome the Philippine Navy's third Weather High Endurance Cutter Barko ng Pilipinas (BRP) Andres Bonifacio (FF17) will be held on Dec. 9, 2016 9:00 AM at Pier 13, South Harbor, Manila with Sec. Delfin N. Lorenzana, the Secretary of National Defense as the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The highlight of the event will be the tribute and recognition to the laudable efforts of the sailors who were instrumental for the ship's safe and successful voyage to the Philippines.

Just like BRP Gregorio del Pilar (FF15) and BRP Ramon Alcaraz (FF16), the other two Del Pilar Class Frigates (DPCF), FF17 will be primarily important for the PN's maritime security and sovereignty patrols in line with the Navy's mandate to protect the people and the state. NPAO / MCAG

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

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

FORMAL ACCEPTANCE | Turn-over and Blessing Ceremony of the 2nd Batch of Two FA-50 Aircraft

Alvin Santiago



COL JESUS VILLAMOR AIRBASE GRANDSTAND, Pasay City (DWDD) –The formal acceptance, turn-over, and blessing ceremony of the second batch of the FA-50PH Fighter/ Surface Attack/ Lead-in Fighters Trainer Aircraft (F/SA/LIFTA) with tail numbers 003 & 004 will be conducted at Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base Grandstand in Pasay City on December 8, 2016 at 2:00 pm.

Secretary of National Defense, Hon Delfin N Lorenzana will serve as the Guest of Honor for the ceremony.

Prior to the formal acceptance, turnover and blessing ceremony, the aircraft had undergone an acceptance flight for three days by the End-users test pilot with the presence of the Technical Inspection Acceptance Committee (TIAC) members. **AES / MCAG**

<http://www.update.ph/>

Philippines, Russia negotiate military cooperation

Gloria Seloza



Russia government photo

Philippines National Defense Department and Russia Defense Ministry held a bilateral meeting December 5 in Russia. The meeting was held in the business-like manner, Russia Ministry of Defense said. The Philippine defense delegation was headed by National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

"The negotiations were held in course of building up agreements on bilateral military cooperation, which had been achieved at the meeting of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin with the President of the Republic of Philippines Rodrigo Roa Duterte on the summit in Lima," Russia Ministry of Defense said.

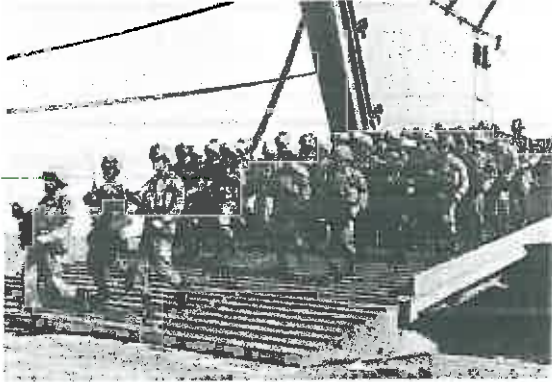
"In course of the meeting, [Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov] Anatoly Antonov noted that Russia and Philippines were facing common threats, main of which was international terrorism. He also informed Rodrigo Roa Duterte about fighting of the Russian Armed Forces against terrorism in Syria," it added.

During the meeting both parties confirmed that development of military cooperation between the countries is to promote strengthening of security in the Asia-Pacific region.

<http://www.philstar.com/>

More Marines sent to secure Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat

By John Unson



Philippine Marines disembark from a troop transport. File photo

SULTAN KUDARAT, Philippines — The Philippine Marine Corps on Sunday has augmented its forces securing coastal towns in Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao provinces with an additional battalion to help local authorities address fanatical Islamic militants.

The 2nd Marine Battalion, comprised of more than 500 Marines, was welcomed on Sunday by residents of Kalamansig town led by Mayor Ronan Garcia.

The unit will join four other battalions under the 2nd Marine Brigade based in nearby Lebak town also in Sultan Kudarat.

Gen. Alvin Parreño, brigade commander, was also present in the welcome honors that local officials extended to the Marines.

Parreño said the battalion will be engaged in peace-building and humanitarian activities while also performing security duties in local communities.

The Marines are popular in Central Mindanao for having driven away more than a hundred Khilafa Islamiya militants from Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat in late 2015.

That operation resulted in the deaths of seven jihadists and the restoration of government control over their enclave.

The outlawed Khilafa Islamiya used the black flag of the Independent State of Iraq and Syria while it operated a "shadow government" from its camp southwest of Palimbang.

<http://dwdd.com.ph/>

CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR | A Drug-Free Camp

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GUILLERMO NAKAR, Lucena City (DWDD) – A total of 249 military personnel and civilian employees of Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM) went through a surprise drug-testing earlier today December 6, 2016 resulting to zero-user or a drug-free Camp Guillermo Nakar.



The random drug test headed by Lieutenant General Ferdinand F. Quidilla AFP, Commander, SOLCOM was done immediately after the physical fitness of our personnel as part of the continuing effort of the AFP to eliminate personnel who are involve on illegal drugs and to support the campaign of the PNP on counter drugs operations.

Lieutenant General Quidilla wanted to ensure that the headquarters of SoLCom is a drug free unit and camp. He also undergo the drug test to set an example to the Pangkat ng Magiging personnel that we should not get involve ourselves on drugs because we are one with the PNP to crackdown high drug-risk syndicates to protect the Filipino people and the nation.

The AFP has already recorded a total of 44 military personnel found positive on drugs in the first 100 days of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte campaign against illegal drugs and they are already undergoing the proper disposition of their case in accordance with our military justice system. **PAO SOLCOM / MCAG**

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Maute group taking refuge near MILF areas in Butig

Rappler

The military says the Maute group is taking advantage of the peace process, confident that the military will not attack MILF areas



PEACE MECHANISM. Peace monitors were sent Butig after complaints that military offensive has gotten too close to MILF areas. Photo from the military

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has expressed "concern" that the military offensive against the Maute group in Butig, Lanao Del Sur has gotten dangerously too close to its camps inside the town.

"That is a concern," chief MILF peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal told Rappler. MILF has several camps in the town where the local terror group inspired by the Islamic State (ISIS) raised the black flag of the global terror group.

The military claims the members of the Maute group have been attempting to take refuge near MILF areas to take advantage of the peace process, confident that the military will not attack MILF areas.

"We saw that. They feel safe. Baka hindi namin galawin (They think we will not touch them) because of the peace process. Maaring ganoon (It is possible). Gusto nila (They want to) drag [the] group na yun sa gulo na 'to (in the clashes)," said Colonel Rosseler Murillo, ground commander in Butig.

The MILF concern was raised on Saturday's (December 3) special session of the Municipal Peace and Order Council (MPOC), that gathered the town's residents. A local official sent by Butig Mayor Dimnatang Pansar to talk to the MILF relayed their concerns.

"Medyo malapit na bomba kagabi. Huwag masyado ilapit sa kanila. Pinakita nila sa akin mga tumama (The bombs were dropped their areas. It should not be too close. They showed me where they hit)," the emissary reported during the special session.

The International Monitoring Team (IMT), a mechanism under the peace process, sent its monitors to Butig the following day to check the situation.

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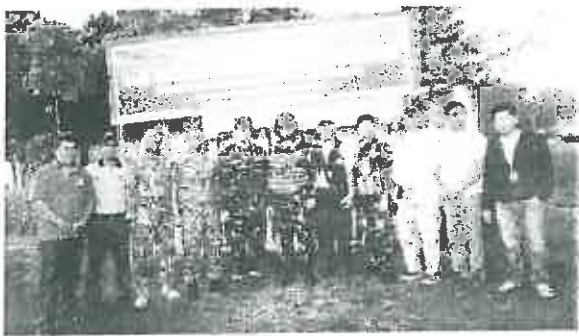
Mistrust vs MILF

Some of the residents present at the special session claim some MILF members are helping the Maute. A resident complained how the MILF had prior knowledge about the military offensive against the Maute, citing how one of its members announced details of the attack on the radio.

Iqbal maintained that MILF commanders are not involved, but he cannot give an assurance that all their members have stayed away from the clashes.

"Commanders none. Elements, I don't know," Iqbal told Rappler. "Of course, we are not allowig our members to join the Maute group," he said.

The situation highlights the complicated situation in Butig, where most of the residents are relatives but are members of different groups. Blood ties may prevail when clashes erupt.



The MILF also asked the military not to pounce on houses in barangay Sandeb, where many of its members reside, especially when they are not meeting resistance there.

Murillo sought the assistance of the residents to guarantee that Maute members have not taken refuge in the barangay.

"Ang request ng Sandeb, huwag tirahin. Pero kung may magbabaril sa Sandeb, pwede. So siguraduhin natin na wala. Kailangan namin tulong niyo," said Murillo. (Sandeb is requesting that we don't hit the barangay. But if we are fired upon, we can respond. So let's make sure that there will be no resistance. We need your help.)



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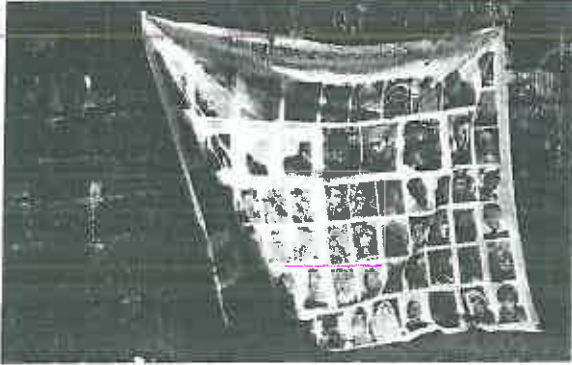
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<http://www.rappler.com/>

PNP, AFP raid Maute compound in Marawi City

(2nd UPDATE) One Special Action Force trooper is wounded in the raid



SUSPECTS. A banner across the street from a military camp in Marawi shows the faces of suspected members of the Maute Group. Rappler photo

MANILA, Philippines (2nd UPDATE) – The Maute compound in Marawi City was raided Tuesday morning, December 6, as troops continued pursuit operations against the leaders of the local terrorist group that has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS).

One Special Action Force (SAF) trooper was wounded in the joint operation of the police and military.

The military's 65th Infantry Battalion, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Police Regional Office's Regional Public Safety Battalion (RPSB) and Criminal and Investigation Detection Group (CIDG) implemented search warrants against several members of the Maute family.

Search warrants for the violation of the country's firearms and illegal drugs laws were issued by a Maguindanao court against the homes of Farhana R. Maute, Abdullah R. Maute, Mohammad Khayam, Abdulhaman R. Maute, Mahater R. Maute, Abdul Azis R. Maute, Hamsa R. Maute and Mahater R. Maute.

By 2:15 in the morning, government forces "dominated the area of operation and immobilized all persons inside the target houses without any resistance," according to a report from the Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force (SAF), which provided tactical support for the operation.

One SAF trooper, PO2 Rolando Redondo of the 103rd Special Action Company, was injured when an improved explosive device set off at target 4 of the area. He was brought to an Army ambulance right away.

Government forces also recovered the following: two 81-mm mortar cartridges and a Romeo-Suarez shotgun.

The Maute brothers – Omar and Abdullah – grew up in Marawi City. The town of Butig in Lanao del Sur, where they camped out and recruited locals to their organization, is the hometown of their mother. It is less than 2 hours away by land from the city.

Clashes first erupted between the military and the Maute group in February this year, prompting the local government to abandon the municipal hall and hold office at the nearby building of the National Irrigation

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Authority. The military launched a massive offensive against the group in late November, that killed 49 alleged Maute group members and wounded 21 soldiers.

The terrorists have since retreated, occupying areas close to the camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Butig. This prompted the MILF to raise concern.

The military claims the members of the Maute group have been attempting to take refuge near MILF areas to take advantage of the peace process, confident that the military will not attack MILF camps. But some residents said they suspect MILF members are coddling Maute members. – Carmela Fonbuena/Rappler.com

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Trooper killed in offensive vs Maute Group in Lanao del Sur

Philippine News Agency

A trooper was killed following an encounter with an estimated 20 members of the Maute Group in Lanao Del Sur Monday afternoon, Western Mindanao Command Spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said.

During the firefight, Tan said one soldier from the 1st Scout Ranger Company was killed while an undetermined number of terrorists were killed or wounded.

Government forces continue to pursue the Maute Group for its attack on Butig which started Nov. 26. A six-day military offensive drove the terrorists from the town Dec. 1.

Tan said troops recovered a rocket-propelled grenade, an undetermined number of RPG munition, and a steel chainsaw.

"As of Dec. 6, 7 a.m., fire missions were delivered to enemy locations. The enemy has, to date, incurred 63 killed and 17 wounded, while the troops suffered one killed and 38 wounded in action," he added.

In a related development, a firearm, assorted war and explosive materials were seized by joint police and military operations against Farhana Maute, the mother of the founder of the Maute Group, during operations in Butig town, Lanao Del Sur 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Tan said the Regional Public Safety Battalion and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group supported by the 65th Infantry Battalion under the Joint Task Force ZamPeLan participated in the operation.

An armed confrontation ensued, resulting in the wounding of a police officer, while undetermined on the enemy, he added.

www.interaksyon.com/national

Soldier slain in clash with Maute Group

By: Philippine News Agency
December 6, 2016 12:53 PM



An armored personnel carrier near damaged buildings in Butig, Lanao del Sur after the military retook the town from the Maute Group. (photo by Richel Umel, AFP)

MANILA, Philippines -- A soldier was killed in a clash with suspected members of the Maute Group in Lanao Del Sur Monday afternoon, Western Mindanao Command Spokesperson Major Filemon Tan said.

Aside from the slain member of the 1st Scout Ranger Company, Tan said an undetermined number of the gunmen were also killed or wounded.

The clash happened as government forces continue to pursue the Maute Group after dislodging the extremists from the town of Butig following a weeklong offensive.

"As of December 6, 7 a.m., fire missions were delivered to enemy locations. The enemy has, to date, incurred 63 killed and 17 wounded, while the troops suffered one killed and 38 wounded in action," Tan said.

Meanwhile a police officer was wounded in a firefight during a joint operation on the home of Farhana Maute, mother of Maute Group's founder, in Butig early Tuesday morning.

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President Duterte sets conditions for release of political prisoners

Philippine News Agency

President Rodrigo Duterte has said he will only order the release of 130 political prisoners if the government peace panel and the National Democratic Front (NDF) sign a bilateral ceasefire deal during talks in Oslo, Norway this week.

"Produce to me a signed bilateral ceasefire agreement and I will release them within 48 hours. You can take my word for it," Government peace negotiator Silvestre Bello III quoted the president as saying.

In a press statement released by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Tuesday, the president (said) the government has already conceded far enough to the NDF. But he also promised to release a number of elderly and sick detained rebels before Christmas Day.

"The president told us that once he receives even just a facsimile copy of the signed agreement, he will immediately order the release of communist rebels," Bello said.

Bello sought instructions from Malacanang after the president met with top rebel leaders Benito and William Tiamzon in Davao City on Friday evening.

In that meeting, the president said he would keep his campaign promise to release detained communist rebels.

The president, however, gave his latest instructions during the break of the cabinet meeting at the Palace Monday evening.

The government panel holding peace talks with the NDF has submitted a list of 200 prisoners who are eligible for release under the new guidelines of the Presidential Committee on Bail, Recognizance and Parole (PCBREP).

Twenty-five (25) of them are elderly, sick and women. The NDF claimed 434 rebels are still being held in different detentions all over the country.

Four rebels convicted for murder and kidnapping were already given presidential pardon as announced by the Secretary Bello Friday last week.

They were identified as Martin Villanueva, Bonifacio Suyon, Dindo Absalon and Rico Bodina.

They have served sentence ranging from 18 to 26 years. All are farmers.

Although both the government and the NDF have declared their own unilateral ceasefires, the two camps have been complaining of reports of violations from the field.

But Bello said until both panels agree to a set of guidelines, "there are technically no violations."

The labor secretary said it is to the best interest of combatants from both sides and especially the civilians caught in the middle of the armed conflict that a "formal ceasefire is in place so that we can monitor any claims of violations."

"Remember, one life saved is one more happy family," the government chief negotiator said.

During the formal opening round of the peace negotiations, both the GRP and NDF panels agreed to submit drafts on bilateral ceasefire. But the NDF later said the ceasefire is tied to the release of 'political prisoners'.

President Duterte earlier ordered the release of 21 rebel leaders who are now acting as consultants of the NDF panel holding peace talks with the government.

The president made a campaign promise to reopen peace negotiations with the NDF, which is representing the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA).

The Philippine government and the NDF will resume formal peace talks in January, possibly in Rome, Italy.

"The weather is a bit better in Rome than in Oslo, Norway," Bello cited the reason for the change of talks' venue. The first two rounds of formal peace negotiations with the NDF under the Duterte administration were held in Norway whose government is facilitating the talks to put an end to nearly 50 years of armed rebellion in the Philippines.

The guerrilla war being waged by the CPP-NPA-NDF is now Asia's longest running active insurgency movement.

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No bilateral ceasefire, no release of political prisoners — Duterte

Philippine News Agency

There will be no release of a substantial number of detained communist rebels unless a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, President Rodrigo R. Duterte said.

"Produce to me a signed bilateral ceasefire agreement and I will release them within 48 hours. You can take my word for it," a press release from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process quoted the president as having instructed government (GRP) peace panel chair Silvestre Bello III and panel member Angela Librado-Trinidad.

But the president vowed to work on the release of a number of elderly and sick political prisoners before Christmas Day.

In an interview last Sunday, Anakpawis Rep.. Ariel Casilao he said some 165 political prisoners, of whom 25 are elderly and 140 are sickly, will be released before Christmas Day.

"The president told us that once he receives even just a facsimile copy of the signed agreement, he will immediately order the release of communist rebels," Bello said.

Bello and Librado sought instructions from Duterte after he met with NDFP consultants Benito and William Tiamzon here Friday evening where the president reaffirmed his promise to release political prisoners.

The OPAPP press release said about 20 prisoners are eligible for release under the new guidelines of the Presidential Committee on Bail, Recognizance and Parole.

The NDFP claimed that 434 political prisoners are still being held in different detentions all over the country. Last December 2, the OPAPP announced that Duterte had signed an order granting pardon to four rebels convicted for murder and kidnapping.

They were identified as Martin Villanueva, Bonifacio Suyon, Dindo Absalon and Rico Bodina.

Villanueva and Suyon were convicted for kidnapping while Absalon and Bodino served time for murder,. The NDFP said they have already served at least 18 years.

"These rebels have long been recommended for pardon but the previous government did not sign the draft order to release them," Bello said.

The third round of formal peace negotiations will resume on the third week of January 2017 in a neutral venue. Presidential Adviser on Peace Process Jesus Dureza said he has reaffirmed the government's commitment to "walk the extra mile for peace" and assured that efforts have been undertaken for the release of the political prisoners.

But Dureza, in a statement, explained that necessary legal processes take time as the cases are within the jurisdiction of the judiciary which, he noted, is "an independent and co-equal branch."

"Earnest efforts have been ongoing on the releases of prisoners.... We understand their angst and impatience but we are all forgetting that these efforts were never possible nor even imaginable in the previous times," he said.

He said the Duterte administration has made the releases of political prisoners possible.

He added he is appalled by some sectors who criticized the GRP panel for "not delivering enough and for the perceived delay," although he said they serve as good reminders that they need to do more.

"But putting undue public pressure on the government which has already taken unprecedented steps may not yield their intended results. President Duterte has exercised bold political will to quickly resuscitate the peace process from where it was. And he does so also mindful that there is a need to balance things taking into account the processes that must be observed and the whole citizenry that he must also engage and serve," he said.