

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



TEAM ARMY

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OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
NEWS CLIPPINGS

22 December 2016

Thursday

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

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

NEWS HEADLINES

22 DECEMBER 2016



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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS • FEARSLESS VIEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER FORECAST | DECEMBER 22, 2016 | THURSDAY

PHILIPPINE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (PAR)

NORTHEAST MONSOON AFFECTING NORTHERN LUZON (As of 5:00 PM - Dec 21, 2016)

Cities and Temperatures:

- LADAG CITY: 22 - 31 °C
- TUGUEGARAO CITY: 21 - 31 °C
- BAGUIO CITY: 15 - 23 °C
- SBMA/CLARK: 25 - 30 °C
- TAGAYTAY CITY: 27 - 28 °C
- METRO MANILA: 24 - 31 °C
- LEGAZPI CITY: 25 - 29 °C
- ILOILO/BACOLOD CITY: 25 - 30 °C
- TACLOBAN CITY: 25 - 29 °C
- PUERTO PRINCESA: 25 - 31 °C
- METRO CEBU: 25 - 30 °C
- CAGAYAN DE ORO: 23 - 30 °C
- ZAMBOANGA CITY: 24 - 33 °C
- METRO DAVAO: 25 - 31 °C

SUNRISE
6:17 AM

SUNSET
5:33 PM

MOONRISE
12:24 AM

MOONSET
12:42 PM

LAST QUARTER
DEC 21
9:56 AM

NEW MOON
DEC 29
2:53 PM

LOW TIDE
10:53 PM
0.00 Meter

HIGH TIDE
3:02 AM
0.64 Meter

Partly cloudy to at times cloudy with rainshowers

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

Cloudy skies with rainshowers and/or thunderstorms

Rains with gusty winds

	DEC 21	DEC 22	DEC 23	DEC 24
METRO MANILA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	21 - 28 °C	22 - 29 °C
TUGUEGARAO	24 - 30 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 28 °C	24 - 28 °C
LADAG	23 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
BAGUIO	15 - 24 °C	14 - 25 °C	24 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C
SBMA/CLARK	24 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C
TAGAYTAY	21 - 28 °C	22 - 29 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 28 °C
LEGAZPI	25 - 28 °C	24 - 28 °C	23 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C
PUERTO PRINCESA	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C
ILOILO/BACOLOD	24 - 31 °C	25 - 30 °C	24 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C
METRO CEBU	25 - 31 °C	25 - 31 °C		
TACLOBAN	25 - 30 °C	24 - 28 °C		
CAGAYAN DE ORO	23 - 31 °C	24 - 30 °C		
METRO DAVAO	25 - 30 °C	25 - 31 °C		
ZAMBOANGA	24 - 33 °C	24 - 32 °C		

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Page: 1

Rody tells AFP: Respect human rights, rule of law

By ALEXIS ROMERO

Under fire for a brutal war on drugs that has left some 6,000 people dead, President Duterte told soldiers yesterday to respect human rights and the rule of law in all their operations.

At the same time, however, Duterte stressed there is no stopping his bloody war against illegal drugs, which is being waged by the police.

Malacañang also said yesterday that no evidence has been found linking Duterte to extrajudicial killings in Davao when he was the city's mayor.

In a speech at the Armed Forces of the Philippines' 81st anniversary at Camp Aguinaldo, Duterte called the AFP a "bedrock of our democratic ideals," being the institution mandated to protect the people and the state.

"As you observe this momentous occasion, may you all be reminded of your pivotal role in ensuring and sustaining the operational readiness of your units while being prudent so that your actions would strictly adhere to international humanitarian law, human rights and the rule of law," Duterte said.

"I ask you to embolden yourselves to epitomize the AFP's core values of honor, service and patriotism," he added.

To enable the military to perform its crucial role, Duterte promised to boost the morale of the troops and to

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Rody

From Page 1

support their modernization program.

"We shall also continue to upgrade our capabilities to the AFP Modernization Program, focus on maintaining the high state of morale of our men and women by delivering health and wellness services to our personnel, particular those who are deployed in the field, by enhancing the capabilities of tertiary and secondary hospitals and facilities," the President said.

"Finally, we shall also rationalize the way we manage our facilities by crafting a master development plan for all AFP camps and bases as a basis for future development," he added.

Duterte, also the commander-in-chief of the 125,000-strong AFP, commended the military for the gains of security plan Bayanihan, which ended after his predecessor Benigno Aquino III stepped down from office.

"Undoubtedly, the IPSP (Internal Peace and Security Plan) Bayanihan has proven a positive impact on the AFP, making it to have a better image, a moral high ground against the threat groups and the decrease of human rights violation of our troops," he said.

Bayanihan sought to curb armed rebellion through a

combination of military operations and development programs.

Duterte stressed that the government remained committed to seek a lasting solution to armed conflict.

"We will likewise conduct focused military operations against the Abu Sayyaf and other local and foreign terrorist groups and continue to strive to restore civil order in the conflict-ridden areas," the President said.

"The AFP shall enhance its capability to search and engage these lawless elements... The full force of the AFP will be applied to crush these criminals who operate under the guise of religious terror," he added.

Duterte said the Philippines would also boost coordination with Indonesia and Malaysia to suppress kidnappings in the waters of neighboring countries and to expand cooperation on human assistance, disaster response, maritime security and counterterrorism.

No evidence

Duterte's pronouncements came as Malacañang and the Department of Foreign Affairs defended him from the call of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein for Philippine authorities to investigate the

President's admission that he killed people while still mayor of Davao City along with thousands of deaths occurring in the course of his bloody war against illegal drugs.

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar said over radio *dZBB* that Duterte had already been probed when he was still mayor of Davao and "there was no evidence that he was involved" in extrajudicial killings.

"So for me, the issues mentioned by the United Nations have already been answered," Andanar added.

In a press briefing, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella also downplayed Hussein's comments as merely "his opinion" and that Duterte's killing of three people in the 1980s was part of a police operation.

"Again, let me just remind one and all that the incident referred to by the President was actually covered by media and it was a legitimate police action," Abella said, adding the issue had been addressed.

But Abella did not address Duterte's possession and discharge of a firearm while not a policeman.

In several speeches last week, Duterte recounted how in 1988, early in the first of his several terms as mayor of the southern city of Davao, he and local police ambushed and killed three suspected kidnappers.

Duterte has said he routinely carried a gun during his early years as mayor of Davao to protect himself in a high-crime environment. He has not said if the weapon used in the ambush was licensed.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said Duterte's admission that he killed people in the past should not have been used by Hussein to seek a probe without verifying the facts.

Like Abella, Yasay said what happened was a legitimate police operation that Duterte "led against hardened criminals who violently resisted arrest and placed the lives of police operatives and innocent people in jeopardy."

Chief presidential legal counsel Salvador Panelo said those who wanted to investigate the President were merely trying to discredit him, noting the Philippine leader's immunity from suit.

"The problem with those who are monitoring the remarks of the President is they do not listen to him carefully. He already narrated that incident during the campaign period," Panelo told radio station *diwa FM*.

When asked if the President is open to a probe, Panelo said: "If you think about it, it's not about the President being open or not. Even if he does not want it, they can still investigate. It's now up to them."

Duterte did not say anything about the UN human rights chief's statement during his 11-minute speech at the military's 81st anniversary in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Duterte won the presidential election by a landslide largely on a vow to kill 100,000 criminals to stop the country's slide into a "narco-state."

But the President has consistently rejected allegations his incendiary comments could be encouraging police to commit murder.

Hussein said Philippine judicial authorities "must demonstrate their commitment to upholding the rule of law and their independence from the executive by launching a murder investigation," adding it is "unthinkable for any functioning judicial system not to launch investigative and judicial proceedings when someone has openly admitted being a killer."

Unstoppable

"*Wala akong para para dito* (I won't stop)," Duterte said during his message at the Christmas party for employees of the Office of the President at the Kalayaan grounds of Malacbang last Tuesday night, referring to his drug war.

Near the end of his speech Duterte said the anti-drug campaign would be "brutal."

According to Duterte, he would "gladly" step down from

office as long as it would not be due to corruption. "Because it will never happen," he said, referring to corruption on his part.

Duterte reiterated his commitment to provide all-out support to military and police personnel involved in operations against illegal drugs.

"My marching orders to the police and the military is: destroy the drug industry, not the person. Destroy the apparatus," he said.

Stopping short of mouthing expletives, Duterte said, "You don't destroy my country. I don't care (about) those human rights, and presidents of other countries. They are all hypocrisy," he said, lashing out at critics for failing to understand his advocacy to stop illegal drugs.

He told employees of the OP that he was just a fellow worker in government fulfilling his mandate to protect the people. Duterte also stood firm on his standing order for law enforcers to arrest drug suspects or shoot them dead if they resist arrest – notwithstanding the reiteration of the UN body.

"To all the military men listening and all the police officers... remember this: go out and hunt for them. Place them under arrest if still possible. Usually (you cannot) because they are armed," he noted. – With Pia Lee-Brago, Christina Mendez, Elizabeth Marcelo, Paolo Romero, AFP

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Duterte declares ceasefire

Dec. 23-27, Dec. 31-Jan. 3 truce to cover communist, Muslim rebels

By ELENA L. ABEN

President Duterte yesterday announced a unilateral ceasefire with communist and Muslim rebels and called on the mili-

tary to break bread with the insurgents in the spirit of Christmas.

He, however, said the ceasefire – covering December 23 to 27 and Dec. 31 to January 3 – does not extend to criminal groups, citing the Maute Group.

Following his truce declaration, Duterte called on members of the New People's Army (NPA) to come down from the mountains to be with their families during the holidays.

Likewise, the President said his

invitation for rebels to lay down their arms and visit their families is also extended to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"As agreed with some of the ►9

Duterte declares...

◀1

local religious leaders, I will honestly ask you, sincerely, for a ceasefire beginning December 23 hanggang (until) 27, then sa (in) New Year, sa (from Dec.) 31st hanggang (to) January 3," Duterte said in his speech at the 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

"Sa mga (For the) NPA, for the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), although you did not declare any cessation of hostilities somewhere, I would like to invite everybody, leave your arms where they are ngayon (now), and you can come down sa siyudad (in the city), wherever you live, you visit your family," he added.

But CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, an NDFP consultant, revealed this Tuesday in a Facebook post that the unilateral ceasefire earlier declared by the Philippine government (GPH) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) will remain in effect during the holiday season.

"I would like you to come down and be with your family on Christmas Day," Duterte further stated.

Duterte also told Muslim rebels: "Magbaba kayo (Come down), spend time, it's not your festivity but it's ours Christians and we would like you to share the moment with us."

Duterte assured the rebels, no arrests will be made against them, saying that they can even shake hands with government forces should their paths meet. "At kung magsalubong kayo ng sundalo ng Pilipinas, sundalo ko, magkamay lang kayo, o pag ayaw mo, huwag mo na lang tingnan (If you chance upon my soldiers, you may shake hands. But if you don't like, don't look at him anymore)," he said.

Open camps

The President told the military that he has "scraped the bottom of the barrel to come up with something for everybody," including enemies of the state.

Duterte said he would like the

Armed Forces, especially the Army, "kindly open your gates and allow the people to break bread with you even on Christmas day."

"I will be releasing, I don't know if we can still make it... canned goods... this is not to offend anybody, ang pinaka masarap sa Lumad, sa bukid is really the udong and the sardinas... So we'll try to figure out how we can buy these, all of these things before Christmas and the stocks flown to you immediately. Pati na NPA papasukin," Duterte told the troops.

Addressing the NPAs, he said the rebels can go to military camps this Christmas and partake of the meal that the troops will prepare.

Aside from canned goods and udong, Duterte said the military can prepare barbecue and noodles (pancit) for the rebels.

"Kayong mga NPA, wag kayong matakot. Bumaba kayo... I guarantee you that there's a ceasefire and I would like to declare it officially on my part so that you can, I said, go home to your families," he said.

Criminals excluded

The President, however, made it clear that the government truce does not extend to criminals, including the Maute Group in Mindanao.

"Yung mga Maute... sorry na lang, you just burned so many buses the other day? Was it yesterday? You'll have to pay for that and it will be no quarters given, no quarters asked. Alam naman ninyo 'yan. Ganun talaga. That is how it is," he said.

"Kayong mga terrorist, pati mga kidnappers diyan. I don't like to deal with you. Except pag criminals which are totally unacceptable to me. The NPA, MI(LF), MN(LF) - you can come down, be with your family, enjoy the celebrations and we will pray together para - who knows in the fullness of God's time baka magka-areglo tayo, especially the communists, they're going well," Duterte further said.

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

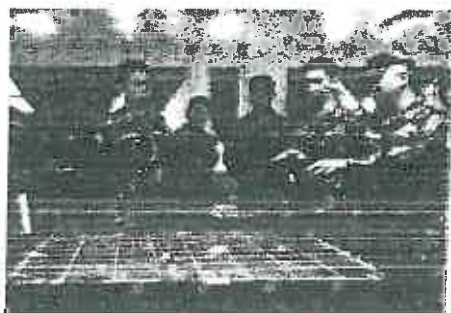
COMBINED ARMS EXERCISE | TRADOC enhances army's war fighting capabilities

Lui Claudio



Capas, Tarlac— The Philippine Army's Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) under Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino has strengthened the Army's war fighting capabilities through the 11-day Joint Combined Arms Training Exercise (JCATEX) held in Fort Ramon Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija which ended Tuesday December 19, 2016.

The said training was participated by 694 students of different career courses from various schools under TRADOC such as Combat Arms School; Combat Support School; Combat Service Support School; Army Leadership Development Center; The Armor School; The Intelligence School; and Civil-Military Operations School.



Highlights of the activity are military operation in urban terrain; battle drills and situational exercises; field training exercises; live fire exercises of 105 howitzers and mortars; and command post exercise. In addition, two (2) Engineer platoon students of the Philippine Navy also took their part in the exercise while the Philippine Air Force also performed close air support, troops insertion and casualty evacuation exercises.

Brig. Gen. Aquino said that JCATEX will prepare participants to incorporate joint, interagency, intergovernmental and indigenous actors into combined arms teams in order to attain the success of an effects-based operation. "By synchronizing combined arms and applying them simultaneously, maneuver units can achieve a greater effect. To integrate all arms into the fight, maneuver leaders must have an understanding of systems' capabilities and employment methods that go beyond individual branch competencies. Importantly, maneuver leaders must be able to integrate, not only Army, but also Air Force and Navy service capabilities into operations with a particular emphasis on joint intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and fire capabilities". Brig. Gen. Aquino said

The implementation of JCATEX is in compliance with the directive of higher headquarters geared to infuse in each and every participant realistic scenarios measuring their preparedness facing real life combat.

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

LOVE AND COMPASSION | TRADOC

Celebrates Christmas for Love and Compassion

Alvin Santiago

CAPAS, Tarlac (DWDD) – The soldiers, civilian employees and dependents of headquarters Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), Philippine Army celebrated the traditional Christmas party with solemn ecumenical prayer at TRADOC Grandstand Camp O'Donnell, Capas Tarlac Tuesday morning December 20, 2016.



TRADOC Commander Brig. Gen. Herminigildo Francisco C. Aquino said that the celebration of the birth of Christ is a celebration of the love and compassion that He has taught us. 'As we celebrate the coming of Christ, let us not forget the essence of Christmas. By this, it means that Christmas is a time of forgiveness. It means that, as we end the year, let us all pause for a moment and reflect on the direction our lives has taken and forgive those whom we perceived as those who have wronged us. Christmas is also a time of compassion. As we enjoy the blessings that we have received, let us not forget to share with those who are less fortunate', BGen. Aquino said

"Amidst the glittering festivities that Christmas season brings, let us be eternally grateful that we are blessed. May you all have a very merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year!" BGen. Aquino concluded

More or less 70 children ages 4 to 10 years old who are military dependents participated and enjoyed the fun games brought by Jollibee staff and from a magician who also provided a sort of entertainment. Moreover, selected personnel received various prizes from TRADOC through a raffle draw. **PIO TRADOC / MCAG**



Army notes less NPA atrocities in Samar, Leyte provinces

Philippine News Agency

The ongoing peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has resulted to less violence committed by the armed rebels in Eastern Visayas in the past six months, according to the Philippine Army.

"The abrupt decline during the third quarter of 2016 was attributed to the peace initiative offered by President Rodrigo Duterte to the communist rebels," said Lt. Col. George Domingo, chief of the Army 8th Infantry Division civil military operations battalion.

Only 25 NPA-initiated atrocities in the region were recorded by the army from January to November 2016. The official had no available data when asked about 2015 incidents.

Among provinces, Northern Samar has the highest number of incidents at 16, followed by Samar (six), Eastern Samar (two), and Leyte (one).

Most violence was committed during the first quarter of the year, according to Domingo.

"Atrocities had slowed down in the second quarter as some rebels participated in the campaign of their supported candidates," Domingo added.

Government troops and communities also recorded 447 activities by the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA). These activities were concentrated on the conduct of rehabilitation works.

Of the 447 activities, 190 were noted in Northern Samar, 122 in Samar, 114 in Eastern Samar, and 21 in Leyte.

Tagged as NPA-infested areas are Silvino Lobos, Las Navas, San Roque, and Mondragon towns in Northern Samar; San Jose de Buan, Gandara, and San Jorge in Samar; Oras, Canavid, Dolores, Llorente, General McArthur, and Balangiga in Eastern Samar.

In Leyte, NPAs are more active in the upland villages of Burauen, Ormoc City, Albueria, Baybay City, and San Isidro towns.

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

Army capacitates young cultural minority professionals in Caraga

Philippine Information Agency

Butuan City -- In its aim to enhance the potential of the young cultural minority professionals to become an agent of peace and development in the communities, the 4th Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion, Philippine Army capacitated the youth sector thru the conduct of 'Young Cultural Minority Professionals' Forum from December 21-22, 2016 at 4CMO Conference Room, this city.

According to 4CMO Battalion commanding officer LTC Rey Pasco, this the first in Caraga region to conduct such forum involving the youth sectors, who are mostly officers of the Caraga Mindanao Cultural Development, Inc. (CMCDI), an Indigenous Peoples (IP) youth organization which was organized by the 4CMO as IP Youth Leaders and Communicators in the region, student leaders from Father Saturnino Urios University (FSUU) in Butuan City and Muslim young professionals identified by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF).

"The youths as future leaders of our society are considered critical and decisive factor in the government's fight against insurgency and violent extremism, for they will soon shape the course of our society, thus, there is a great need to properly address and educate the youth sector so as to deny the Communist Party of the Philippines – New Peoples Army – National Democratic Front (CPNP) and violent extremists a source for their recruitment and to discredit the enemy's propaganda against the government,"highlighted Col. Pasco.

Col. Pasco added that lecturers of said forum are coming from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), NCMF, Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and 401st and 402nd Brigades of Philippine Army.

"We invited speakers from the aforementioned agencies to discuss relevant topics, issues and concerns that **affect the youth sector. We wanted to equip the participants with the right knowledge and capacitate them** through a workshop to come up with an action plan for their respective community. Right after the workshop, they will present and explain their outputs to develop small group interaction and break barriers in expectation and pre-conceptions," Col. Pasco underlined.

It was also learned that said activity will be replicated and conducted at the provincial and municipal level by the CMO companies in coordination with the brigades in the area of responsibility.

22 December 2016

Malaya
The National Newspaper

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Duterte to AFP: Remain true to core values

**BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR
AND VICTOR REYES**

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday urged soldiers to remain true to the Armed Forces' core values of honor, service, and patriotism, and strictly adhere to the international humanitarian law as they fulfill their mandate as "protector of the people and the guarantor of a stable state."

"As you observe this momentous occasion, may you all be reminded of your pivotal role in ensuring and sustaining the operational readiness of your units while being prudent so that your actions would strictly adhere to the international humanitarian law, human rights, and the rule of law," he said at the 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces in Camp Aguinaldo.

Among prominent people who attended the ceremony were former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Gloria Arroyo, former senator Juan Ponce Enrile, and Chinese ambassador Zhao Jianhua.

Duterte arrived in Camp Aguinaldo 45 minutes late for the ceremony which was scheduled for 3 p.m., giving time for Ramos - who earlier quit as Duterte's special envoy to China - to share some words with Zhao.

Former AFP chiefs were also present, including now national security adviser Hermo-

See DUTERTE TO AFP > Page B6

DUTERTE TO AFP

genes Esperon, Victor Ibrado, Alexander Yano, Hernando Iriberry and Generoso Senga.

Duterte, in his speech, recognized the military's accomplishments, including the successful implementation of the six-year "Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan" that he said helped improved of the military.

Duterte also acknowledged the AFP's commitment to the peace process as he recognized the ongoing "focused military operations" against the Abu Sayyaf Group and the terrorist groups.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to enhance the military's capability through modernization of equipment, delivery of health services, among others.

Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año vowed to improve the operational readiness of government troops who are fighting various threat groups throughout the country.

"Welfare of our troops shall be given extra effort and their skills development will be programmed for the long term," he said in his speech at the anniversary.

Año said the military marked its 81st anniversary "with solid gains in winning the peace, and preserving strong alliance to secure the peace that we have won."

Año attributed the success to the Internal Peace and Security Plan Bayanihan, a six-year campaign plan to win the peace. The IPSP Bayanihan is expiring

in January.

Last Sunday, AFP public affairs office chief Col. Edgard Arevalo said the military will be implementing a new campaign plan at the start of next year. He said the campaign plan was expected to be unveiled by Año in his anniversary speech.

That did not happen. Asked why Año did not talk about the new campaign plan, Arevalo just said, "We will accord more emphasis and significance in its presentation at a more opportune time."

AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Padilla said the new campaign plan is still being finalized. "It's not yet finished. It's still for finalization. (The) formal announcement (will be) first week of January 2017."

President Duterte conferred a Distinguish Conduct Star, the second highest military decoration, on a Navy junior officer for courage in a firefight with foreign and Filipino terrorists in Butig town in Lanao del Sur.

Lt. (jg) Reginaldo Balidoc of the Navy's Special Operations Group received the award "for acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry in the face of an armed enemy during an encounter against more or less 50 foreign and local terrorist organizations."

Balidoc achieved the feat in an all-out campaign against members of the Maute Group in February this year. The campaign led to the killing of around Maute members and the capture of their main camp.

Receiving the Gold Cross Medal - the third highest com-

bat medal - were Army Lt. Jay Maravilla and Marine Cpl. Felipe Bardadillo.

Maravilla was cited for "gallantry in action" in a firefight with about 100 members of the Abu Sayyaf Group in Patikul town in Sulu last August and

Bardadillo also for "gallantry in action" while serving as lead sniper of the Special Operations Platoon of Marine Battalion Landing Team 6 in November last year.

The battalion clashed with members of the Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, a group linked to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, in Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat, killing eight group members.

The other awardees are Air Force Maj. Lester Gannaban and Army S/Sgt Ritchie Navales (Bronze Cross Medal) for "acts of heroism" during a helicopter aerial mission to contain a forest fire and combat operations against the Maute Group; Col. Nestor Bautista and Army Maj. Dennis Guillermo (Outstanding Achievement Medal); militiaman Sandy Sentelices Kagitigan sa Barangay award; Army Maj. Eduard Sia-ed, Gawad sa Kaunlaran; Air Force T/Sgt. Adriano Reginales, AFP enlisted personnel of the year; Marvinea Fernandez, AFP medal civilian supervisor of the year; Virginia de Luna, AFP model civilian employee of the year; Cadet Lt. Col. Emmanuel Quibal, male ROTC cadet of the year; Cadet Col. Ivy Baring, ROTC female cadet of the year; and Erlinda Quisto, head of the Batara, Palawan social welfare and development, Bayanihan award;

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Marine sniper honored for terrorists' slay

By JAIME LAUDE

A Marine sniper who killed eight suspected terrorists during heavy fighting in Sultan Kudarat last year was among the top awardees in yesterday's 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) held at Camp Aguinaldo.

President Duterte, the commander-in-chief and guest of honor and speaker, pinned the Gold Cross Medal on Cpl. Felipe Barbadillo.

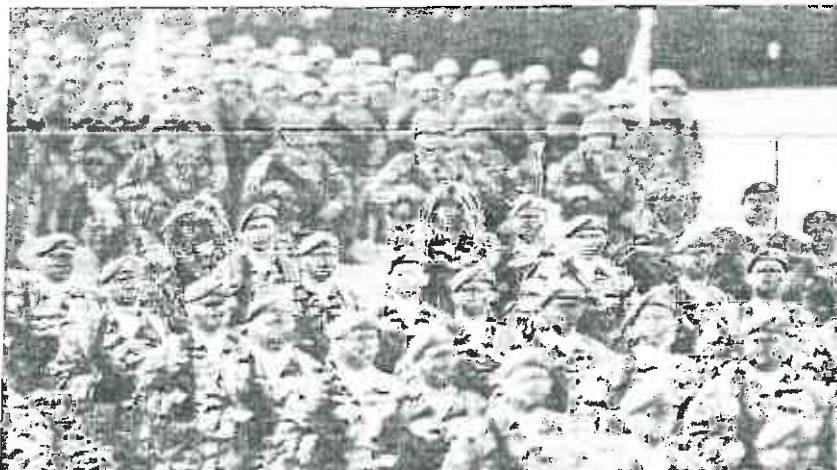
"The Gold Cross is hereby awarded to Cpl. Barbadillo, for gallantry in action while serving as the lead sniper of Special Operations Platoon of Marine Battalion Landing Team-6 tasked as main effort to conduct law enforcement patrol to neutralize the armed group of Jafar Sabiwang Maguid, a local terrorist believed to be linked with the foreign terror-

ist group ISIS at Sinapingan, Barangay Butril, Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat," the Marine sniper's citation reads.

At the height of the fighting, Barbadillo led his team in out-maneuvering the Islamic State-inspired terrorist group, killing eight of them, including Indonesian bomb-maker Ibrahim Ali, alias Sucipto, and Ustadz Abu Fatah.

The leader of the group, Mohammad Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, alias Kumander Tokboy and Abu Gaib, was able to escape and now leads a local and foreign IS-inspired terrorist cell.

Aside from Barbadillo, this year's top awardees include Maj. Dennis Guillermo, who was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Medal (OAM) for being project officer of the intelligence operation



Soldiers parade during the 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City yesterday.

against the three members of the Maute and Tokbo groups tagged as brains behind the deadly Davao City night market bombing.

The President also pinned the Distinguished Conduct Star medal on Navy Ltjg. Regi-

nald Balidoc for his conspicuous courage and gallantry against more than 50 foreign and local terror groups under Omarhayan and Abdullah Maute in the recent fighting at Ragayan, Butig, Lanao del Sur.

This year AFP's Gold Cross

medal awardee was Lt. Jay Maravalia for his combat exploits against the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Barangay Bungkang, Patikul, Sulu.

The Gold Cross is the second highest military medal in combat, next only to the Medal of Valor.

Awardees of the Gawad sa Kaunlaran

(GSK), Bronze Cross, Kagitingan sa Barangay (KSB) or Maginoo medals were Maj. Eduardo Sia-ed (GSK); Maj. Mark Lester Garraban (Bronze); Sgt. Ritchie Navales (Bronze); and militiaman Andy Sentelices (KSB).

In yesterday's celebration, the AFP paraded its land-based big-ticket assets before President Duterte.

Aside from its armored assets and heavy disaster equipment, the AFP under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año showcased its elite ground troops from the major services - the Army, Air Force and Navy - before the President, who in return said that he takes pride in the soldiers' successes, one of which is the culmination of the six-year Internal Peace and Security Plan (IPSP) Bayanihan.

"All these armored assets, trucks and heavy military equipment were all acquired under the Aquino-backed AFP Modernization Program," one senior military official said, referring to the military assets acquired during the term of former president Benigno Aquino III.

December 2016

The Manila Times

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3 gallant soldiers receive medals

FOR demonstrating courage and gallantry in combat, three military personnel were conferred with three major medals during the 81st founding anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Wednesday.

Lt. (JG) Reginald M. Balidoc of the Navy, 1st Lt. Jay L. Maravilla of the Army and Cpl. Felipe C. Barbadillo of the Marine Corps were decorated by President Rodrigo Duterte.

He was assisted by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Balidoc was awarded the Disting-

uished Conduct Star while Maravilla and Barbadillo got the Gold Cross Medal.

Balidoc, a member of the Special Operations Group was given the Distinguished Conduct Star for acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry during a clash with about 50 foreign

and local terrorists under Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute in Butig, Lanao Del Sur on Feb. 25, 2016.

Maravilla got the Gold Cross Medal for gallantry during an encounter with 100 fully armed Abu Sayyaf Group members in Patikul, Sulu on Aug. 26, 2016. Barbadillo was given the same

medal for serving as the leading sniper of the Special Operations Platoon of the Marine Landing Team-6 tasked to neutralize the group of Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, a local terrorist believed to be linked with ISIS at Sinapingan, Barangay Butril Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat on Nov. 26, 2015.

PNA

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Duterte decorates 3 gallants in AFP anniversary

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

THREE servicemen were decorated with top medals in the military during the 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Wednesday.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Reginald M. Balidoc of the Philippine Navy was conferred the Distinguished Conduct Star, the second most important AFP decoration next to the Medal of Valor, for conspicuous courage and gallantry as team leader of the elite Naval Special Operations Unit-8.

Army Lieutenant Jay L. Maravilla and Corporal Felipe C. Barbadillo of the Marine Corps were both given the Gold Cross Medal, the fourth most important AFP decoration, for their gallantry in military operations against terrorists in Mindanao.

Balidoc, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 2011, was decorated for valor during a battle with 50 terrorists under Omarhayam and Abdullah Maute at the Ragayan, Butig, Lanao del Sur on Feb. 25, 2016.

Balidoc "inflicted heavy casualties to the enemy thereby showcasing extreme stability under fire and keeping up with the finest traditions of Filipino soldiery," his citation read.

Maravilla, on the other hand, was decorated for gallantry in a battle with 100 Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Sitio Makaita, Barangay Bungaong, Patikul, Sulu last Aug. 26, 2016 that inflicted heavy casualties to the enemy "through superb combat leadership and tactical acumen."

Barbadillo, a Marine sniper belonging to the elite Special Operations Platoon of the Marine Landing Team-6, was cited for valor in a battle with the armed group of Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid at Sinapingan, Barangay Butril Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat last Nov. 26, 2015.

The gallants were decorated by President Rodrigo Duterte during Wednesday's awarding ceremonies.

He was assisted by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana. PNA

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AFP drug hunt worries solon

A CONGRESSWOMAN has warned that President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte's marching orders to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to "hunt down" suspected drug lords may lead to heightened militarization, especially in far-flung communities.

"Already, we could see what this bloody war on drugs has cost us. Thousands have died, many not even proven to be drug traffickers, some even not yet reaching the legal age. Already, hundreds of families are mourning the death of their loved ones who are victims of the drug war perpetrated by the police force. Now, even the AFP is given the green light to conduct 'Tokhang' activities, and that bodes ill

for the human rights situation in the country," said Kabataan Party-list Rep. Sarah Jane Elago.

Elago was reacting to the statement of President Duterte who told troops to "hunt" suspected drug lords and help in his war on drugs.

She noted that allowing the AFP to take an active role in the drug war may lead to heightened militarization and rights abuses.

"One could only imagine in horror how known human rights violators in the armed forces can exploit the drug war as cover for their military operations, especially in far-flung communities. Farmers, indigenous peoples, and common citizens living in peace in the countryside are now in danger of

intensified military operations in the name of the war on drugs," Elago said.

"If it was easy for the AFP to plant evidence in many cases of illegal arrests and abductions, it would also be easy for them to plant evidence to make their operations look like a legitimate drug buy bust," she added.

"To say that we are worried about this latest development will be a clear understatement. Already, we can foresee a future wherein counterinsurgency operations will be disguised as drug raids. Human rights violations will surely soar, even in the most remote communities, no thanks to the President's relentless war on drugs," Elago ended.

Ryan Ponce Pacpaco

22 December 2016



Pahina. 2

3 sundalo na nakipagbakkaban vs Maute, Sayyaf pinarangalan

Tatlong bayaning sundalo na buong tapang na nakipaglaban sa Maute terrorist group at Abu Sayyaf Group ang nanguna sa mga pinarangalan ni Pangulong Duterte sa ika-81 taong pagkakatatag ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) sa ginanap na seremonya kahapon sa Camp Aguinaldo.

Kinilala ang mga ito na sina Lt. Junior Grade Reginald Balidoc ng Philippine Navy, 1stLt. Jay Maravilla ng Philippine Army at Corporal Felipe Barbadillo ng Philippine Marine Corps.

Ang AFP ay nagdaos ng ika-81 taong anihersaryo nito kahapon na may temang "Conquering

Challenges, Harnessing Change".

Si Balidoc ay ginawaran ng Distinguished Conduct Star habang sina Maravilla at Barbadillo ay kapwa tumanggap ng Gold Cross Medal.

Si Balidoc na dating miyembro ng Navy Special Operations Group at mula sa Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class 2011 ay ginawaran ni Duterte ng Distinguished Conduct Star dahil sa ipinakita nitong katapangan at kabayanihan sa pakikipaglaban sa mahigit 50 dayuhan at lokal na miyembro ng Maute terrorist group sa Brgy. Regayan, Butig, Lanao del Sur noong Pebrero 25, 2016.

Sa nasabing bakkaban ay nalagasan ng malaking puwersa ang Maute.

Ang matapang na si Balidoc sa panahon ng bakkaban ay ang team leader ng Naval Special Operation Unit 8 na nagsagawa ng pagharang sa nagsisitakas na Maute.

Samantala si Maravilla, Bachelor of Science of Biology graduate ay tumanggap naman ng Gold Cross Medal sa ipinakitang katapangan sa pakikipaglaban sa humigit kumulang na 100 armadong Abu Sayyaf sa Brgy. Bungkaong, Patikul, Sulu nitong Agosto 26, 2016.

Sa nasabing bakkaban ay dumanas ng dagok

ang mga bandido matapos na malagasan ng malaking puwersa nito habang sari-saring mga armas at bala rin ang narekober sa nasabing operasyon.

Si Barbadillo ay ginawaran naman ni Pangulong Duterte ng Gold Cross Medal bunga na rin ng husay nito bilang sniper ng Special Operations Platoon ng Marine Landing Team 6 matapos ma-neutralize ang grupo ni Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, mga lokal na terorista na may ugnayan sa dayuhang Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) sa engkuwentro sa Brgy. Butrif, Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat noong Nob. 26, 2015. (Joy Cantos)

December 2016

The Manila Times

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Duterte to rebels: 'Come home for Christmas'

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday urged members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) to leave their arms and come down to celebrate Christmas with their families.

In his speech during the 81st anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, the President assured the rebels that they won't be arrested when they come down from the mountains.

"Sa mga NPA or the Communist Party of the Philippines, although you did not declare any cessation of hostilities... I would like to invite everybody, leave your arms where they are ngayon [now] and you can come down sa siyudad [to the city] or wherever you live. You visit your family," Duterte said.

"I would like you to come down and be with your family on Christmas day. I guarantee you na walang arresto, walang oppression, [I guarantee that there will be no arrest, no oppression, no everything. And if you meet a soldier of the Philippines, my soldier, shake hands. Or if you don't want to, just don't look at him]," he added.

Duterte said he wanted a ceasefire with all rebel groups for the holiday

HOME FROM A1

Duterte to rebels:

season.

"As agreed with some of the local religious leaders, I will honestly ask you sincerely for the ceasefire beginning December 23 up to 27, then in the New Year, in the 31st, up to January 2, 3," he said.

He said he had extended the same invitation to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

But the invitation does not apply to criminals and terrorists group such as the Abu Sayaff, he said.

"Kayong mga terrorist and kidnapers, I don't want to deal with you. I don't want to see you," the President said.

Duterte, Sison agree to pursue peace talks

Duterte and Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison agreed to pursue a peace agreement and continue a truce during the holidays, in a phone conversation on Tuesday, a Palace official said.

In a statement, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte and Sison had a "friendly" phone conversation on the ongoing

peace negotiations between the government and the communist political arm, the National Democratic Front (NDF).

Sison, in a Facebook post, said he had a "friendly and productive" phone conversation with Duterte about advancing the peace talks. The phone call happened at 2 a.m. Manila time, Tuesday.

He said the unilateral ceasefire declarations of the two parties, made in August at the beginning of peace talks in Norway, "will stand during Christmas and New Year holidays."

Both sides initially aimed to sign a bilateral ceasefire agreement in October, but communist rebels stalled the talks to seek the release of detained communist rebels.

Sison said the bilateral ceasefire agreement and the release of prisoners could be settled when the third round of talks resumes in January 2017.

"Bilateral ceasefire agreement and the amnesty and release of the political prisoners listed by the [NDF] can be discussed and agreed upon before, during, and even after the third round of formal talks in Rome from January 18 to 24," he said. CATHERINE S. VALENTE

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Air Force auditor promoted to general

The internal auditor of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) has been promoted to one-star rank.

Brig. Gen. Simplicio Lumantas Jr. was the latest addition to the Armed Forces of the Philippines' list of generals.

Lumantas is a pilot and member of the PAF Flying School Class of 1988.

Lumantas, along with 42 PAF members who were promoted as second lieutenants, attended the donning of ranks ceremony led by Air Force Commanding General Edgar Fallorina at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Monday.

Prior to his designation as internal auditor, Lumantas held various positions in the PAF such as deputy commander of the 560th Air Base Wing, commanding officer of the PAF Finance Center, assistant chief of air

staff for logistics and commanding officer of Tactical Operations Group 1.

— Michael Punongbayan

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Suspected ASG kidnapping off Sulu

By **NONOY E. LACSON**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - Members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) reportedly kidnapped four crew members of a fishing vessel while it was at the Celebes Sea near Sulu, Monday.

Armed Forces of the Philippines - Western Mindanao Command (West-MinCom) Spokesman Maj. Filemon I Tan, Jr., identified the missing crew

members as Noel Besconde, the captain; Reyjim Rocabo, the Marine Diesel Mechanic (MDM); and crew members Roy Ramos and Roel Liones, residents of Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur.

They were the crew of FB Ramona 2, which was also ransacked by their abductors of its VHF radio and Global Positioning System (GPS).

FB Ramona 2 is a service-type vessel owned by Ramona Fishing Corporation.

Tan said FB Melissa 2, sister ship

of FB Ramona 2, had the last contact with the ill-fated vessel at 3 a.m. Monday, with the latter's crew saying that they were in the vicinity of Celebes Sea near Sulu.

The area is notorious for being among the open waters where the ASG had conducted abductions in the past.

Tan said FB Melissa 2 promptly proceeded to the location of her sister ship at around 5 a.m., but all its crew members missing. The VHF Radio

and GPS were also missing while other belongings were intact.

Joint Task Force Sulu has already deployed forces to conduct a search, while Naval Task Group Sulu has also adopted appropriate measures to immediately locate the victims.

Joint Task Forces Tawi-Tawi and Basilan were also alerted to conduct patrols near the coastal areas of the provinces and intensify their intelligence gathering.

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Sayyaf mocks Du30 call for halt to kidnapping

Members of bandit group seize 4 crewmen of fishing boat passing Celebes Sea off Sulu

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The local terror group Abu Sayyaf mocked President Duterte's appeal for the bandits to take a holiday break from their criminal activities for a peaceful Christmas season, snatching four more victims off Sulu province.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesperson for the military's Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), said the latest victims are four crew members of the fishing boat FB Ramona. They were kidnapped at the Celebes Sea around 2:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

While Tan was not categorical about Abu Sayyaf involvement, the bandits are known to operate in Sulu.

Abu Sayyaf had been behind a series of kidnappings that took place in the high seas surrounding three countries—

Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Among Abu Sayyaf captives are Indonesian, Malaysian and Vietnamese fishing boat crewmen.

Unidentified suspects

Tan said the still unidentified kidnapping suspects boarded FB Ramona and took Noel Besconde, the boat captain; Reyjim Rocabo, engine mechanic and crewmen Roy Ramos and Roel Liones. All the victims are from the town of Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur province.

Tan said the kidnapping was discovered when the crew of FB Melissa 2, a sister ship of FB Ramona, became alarmed when the crew of FB Ramona failed to respond to radio messages since early Tuesday.

He said FB Melissa 2 sailed to the last known location of FB Ramona to find out what was wrong, only to discover that none of FB Ramona's crewmen is there.

Tan said crewmen of FB Melissa 2 found two-way radio equipment and GPS device of the FB Ramona missing although personal belongings of the crewmen were intact.

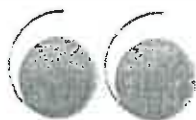
FB Ramona is part of a tuna fishing fleet operating in Mindanao.

'Appropriate action'

Tan said the anti-kidnapping Joint Task Force Sulu has sent forces to possible docking sites in Sulu while the Naval Task Group Sulu had been instructed "to initiate appropriate action for possible interception of the perpetrators with

the kidnap victims."

He said local authorities had also been alerted and ordered to send patrols to Basilan, another province where Abu Sayyaf is known to operate.



Maybe we can
resume fighting
some other day...

Rodrigo Duterte
Philippine President

Moro and lawless groups to "find it in their hearts" to take a break from committing crimes because the Christmas season "is closest to the hearts of the Christians."

Duterte's appeal

"I appeal to everyone to let us have a peaceful Christmas," he said. "Maybe we can resume fighting some other day," Mr. Duterte added.

Kidnappings of boat and cargo crewmen by Abu Sayyaf and allied gunmen continued despite efforts by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to bolster sea security.

Without any known foreign support, Abu Sayyaf has depended largely on kidnappings, extortion and other acts of banditry to raise funds. —JULIE ALIPALA WITH AP AND AFP INQ

OFFICE OF THE ARMY CHIEF

Arr On Dec. 17, Duterte said in his visit here that he wishes for a peaceful Christmas as he urged communist rebels and Abu Sayyaf to "take a vacation." He said he is appealing to

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Sayyaf suspects abduct 4 crewmen from PH ship

FOUR crewmen from a Philippine-flagged fishing vessel have been snatched in waters off Sulu where Abu Sayyaf Islamic militants have previously taken hostages, the military said Wednesday.

A sister vessel found the unmanned FB Ramona 2 in the Celebes Sea early Tuesday, two hours after the crew of both vessels made their last radio contact, regional military spokesman Major Filemon Tan said.

Tan told reporters that seamen from the sister ship “found all crews on board missing and the VHF Radio/GPS was stolen.”

He said the Filipino boat captain and three other crew members were believed to have been abducted. The area is close to the remote Sulu island group more than 1,000 kilometers south of Manila.

The Sulu group is a stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf, which is

Next page

Sayyaf...

From A1

blamed for the deadliest bombings in the Philippines as well as the kidnappings for ransom of foreign tourists and Christian missionaries.

Tan could not immediately say if the Abu Sayyaf was involved in the latest incident.

Security forces have been ordered to intercept the kidnappers if they try to land in the Sulu group, he added.

The unmanned vessel was part of a tuna fishing fleet based in Mindanao. Tan said the crew were also from the area.

Last week military sources said the Abu Sayyaf still had about 18 foreign hostages and five local captives, many of them seized from vessels off the southern Philippines.

AFP, with Florante S. Soimerin

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DEFENDING THE NEWS

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IN BRIEF

Santa Digong gifts PSG

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte distributed cash gifts, bonuses and educational benefits to the members of the Presidential Security Group.

Duterte gave the members of the presidential guard a Christmas bonus of P5,000, combat pay, 14th month pay, and P5,000 from the Office of the President plus free education to their children.

"As I have promised, I will work on this and it will be this year. The education of the children of soldiers and the police will be free. The government will pay," he said.

"Just work. Just remain loyal to the Constitution. Do not be loyal to me. If I have committed a grave error, you can do what you want. But preserve the presidency because it is needed by our country," he said.

Duterte also acknowledged the SMC Foundation for sharing a gift pack and a cash gift of P1,000 to each member of the security group. PNA

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Pahina. 2

NPA, MILF, MNLF tinawagan ni Digong na maki-Pasko

NANAWAGAN kahapon si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa mga rebelde na lumabas o bumaba sa kanilang mga pinagkakampuhan at makisalo sa kanilang mga pamilya o sundalo ngayong Pasko.

Ginawa ni Duterte ang panawagan sa ika-81 na anibersaryo na Armed Forces of the

Philippines na ginanap sa Camp Aguinaldo sa harap na rin nina dating Pangulong Fidel Ramos, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, dating Senador Juan Ponce Enrile, mga ambassador ng iba't ibang bansa at iba pa. Kasabay ng panawagan ng Pangulo sa mga rebelde ang 'di pagdadala ng mga armas sa kanilang pag-uwi at paghahayag ng garantiya na

walang anomang gagawin sa kanila ang mga pwersa ng pamahalaan. Inatasan din ng Pangulo ang mga sundalo na luksan ang kanilang mga kampo at ipaghandada ang mga rebelde ng kahit simpleng pagkain, gaya ng mga delata bilang ulam, sakaling mapagpipigita sa kanila ang mga ito.

Naghayag din si Duterte ng unilatera' ceasefire sa Disyem-

bre 23 hanggang 27 at Disyembre 30 hanggang Enero 2, 2017 at umaasa ito ng katumbas na aksyon ng mga rebelde.

Hinikayat din ng Pangulo ang mga rebeldeng Muslim na lumabas o bumaba sa kanilang mga pamilya at makisalo sa mga sama-samang pagdarasal. Wala namang ganitong pibitihiyo na ibinigay ang Pangulo sa mga terorista at kriminal.

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WHITE CARABAO

President Rodrigo Duterte reviews the troops aboard a military jeep during the 81st anniversary rites of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Camp Aguinaldo.

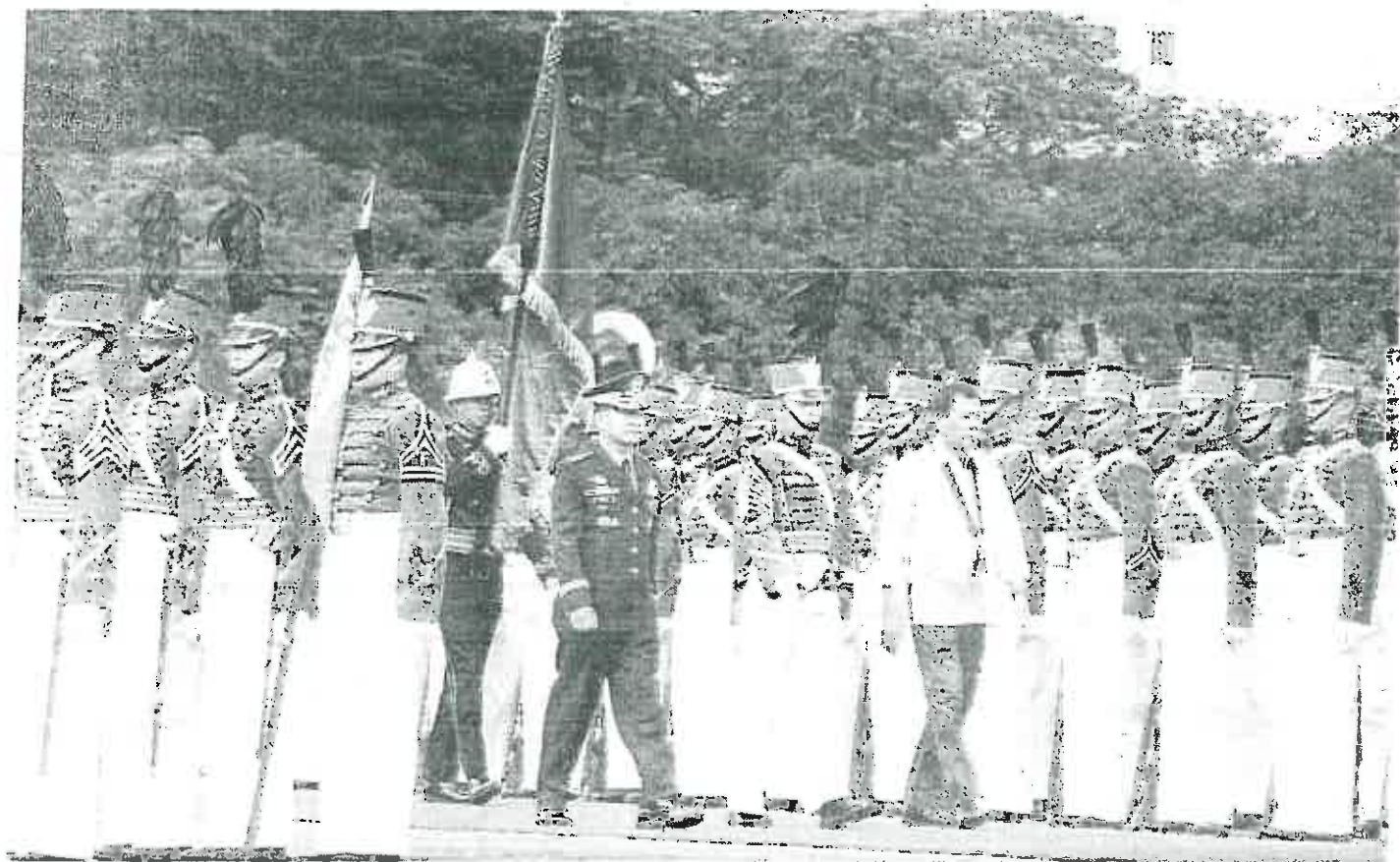
PHOTO BY RUT MARTINEZ

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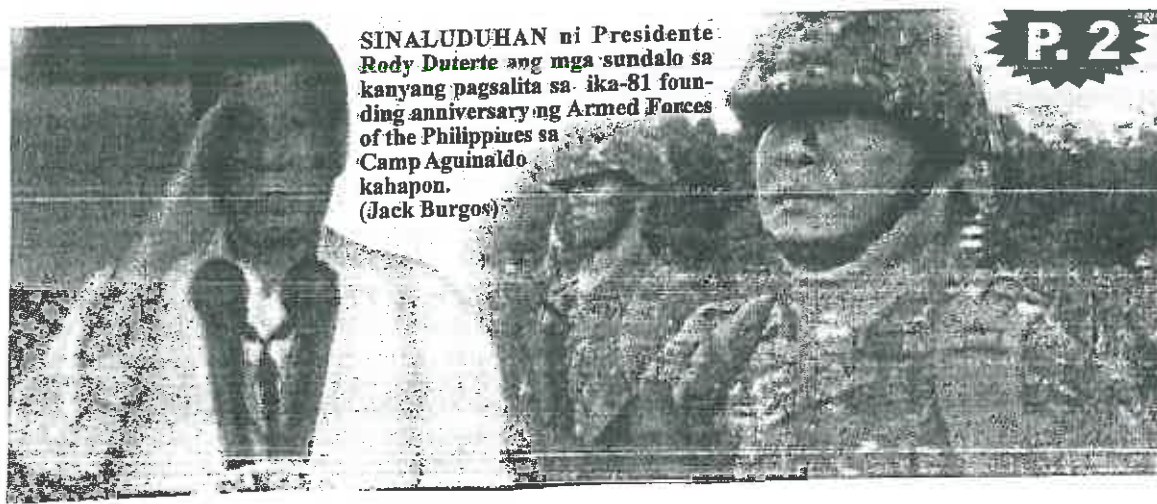
HAIL TO THE CHIEF. President Rodrigo Duterte troops the line with Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Lieutenant General Eduardo Año during the AFP's 81st Anniversary at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on Wednesday. PNA

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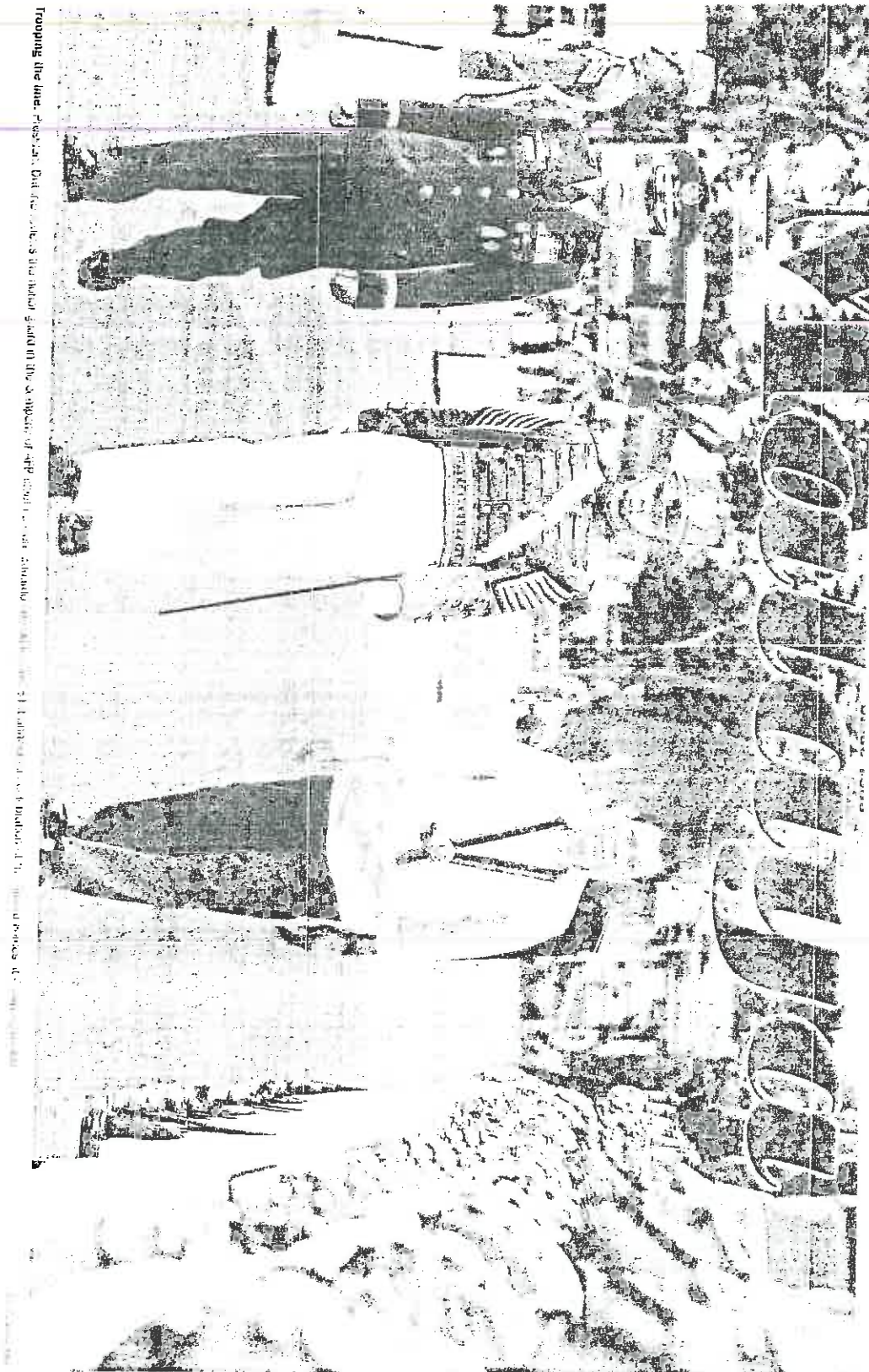


SINALUDUHAN ni Presidente Rody Duterte ang mga sundalo sa kanyang pagsalita sa ika-81 founding anniversary ng Armed Forces of the Philippines sa Camp Aguinaldo kahapon. (Jack Burgos)

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Malaya
The National Newspaper

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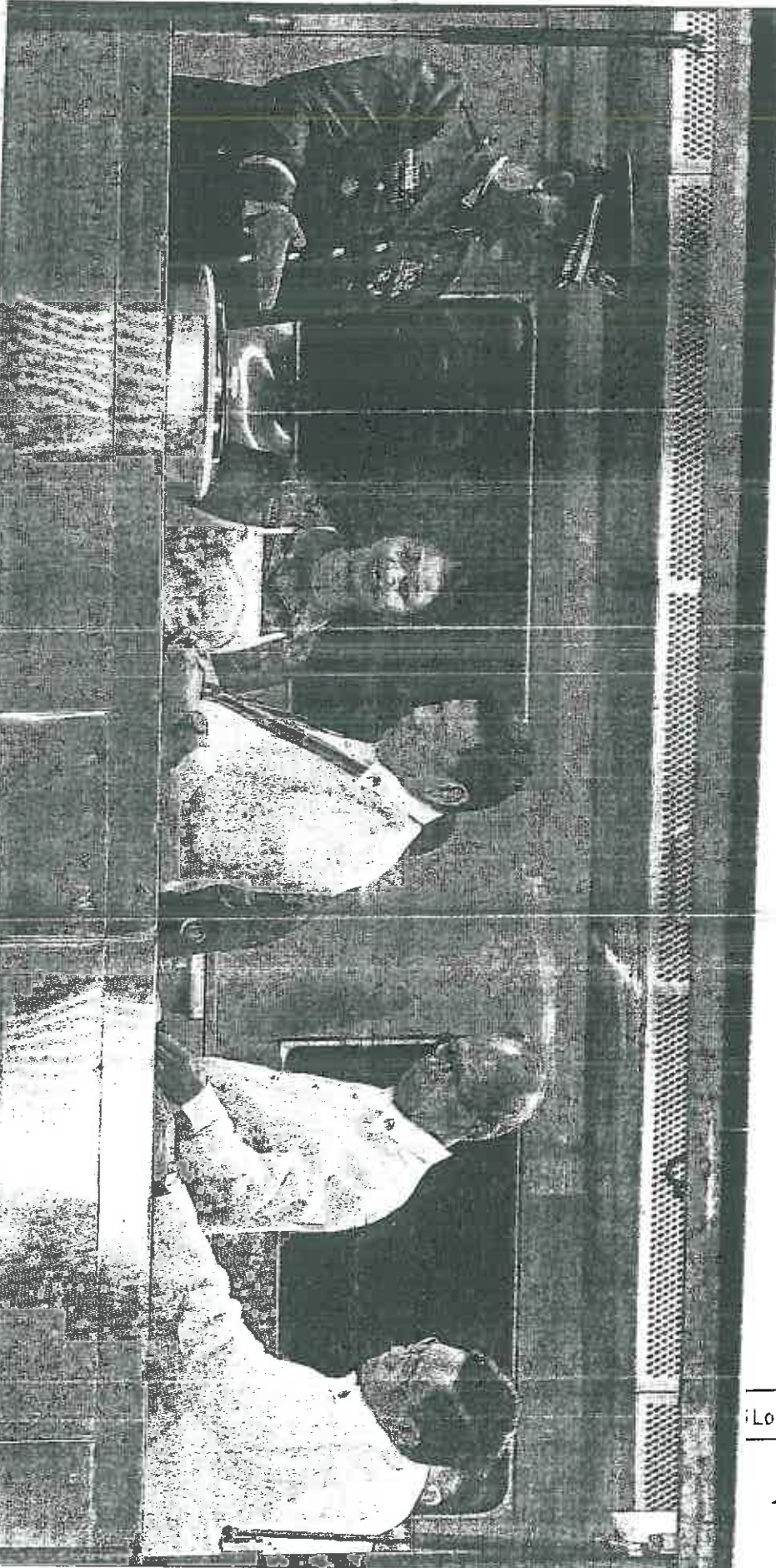
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WHAT'S COOKING? President Duterte inspects a military mobile kitchen during the 81st anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. The mobile kitchen is used in the AFP feeding program for indigents. Also in photo are Brig. Gen. Rafael Sera Jose, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. Related story on Page 6.



Local: 5285, 5295

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METRO CORNER

Mandatory ROTC (Final)



By ERIK ESPINA

THE Japanese Imperial invasion followed in WWII and never, as trumpeted by the “far-left” and ultra-nationalists, due to the US presence. A covert/tentacular plan was hatched in 1921 with the “Social Problems Research Institute,” otherwise known as ‘University Lodging House’ in the shadow of the Imperial Palace led by Crown Prince Hirohito, to conquer half of the world with the “strike North” (Soviet Union/Siberia) school and “strike South” (China/South East Asia) school. This is the reality of our strategically located republic. For an archipelago, we require an effective air force and navy as first line of defense. The random costing of an F-16 C/D: \$47 million each; MIG 29K: \$46.9 M. A diesel submarine, German 212/Italian Todaro: \$371 M. We can ill-afford them. What we are abundant with, to defend the islands are people. Every island a fortress. We can build a credible ‘Reservist Force’ with ROTC, and prepare the entire citizenry as an “invisible army” in an invasion scenario.

ROTC must never be viewed as a mere “military/good citizenship course.” It is a reservist cadre system to build the national defense posture. I recently, I submitted a 4-page proposal on Reservist Affairs to the Defense Department e.g. 1) Basic ROTC renamed as Citizen’s Army Course/Training since they do not graduate as officers. The Advance Course is ROTC proper 2) Rifle firing included in the Basic phase 3) Appointed ROTC “Good Governance Advisor” – priest, or PTA Member, or Reservist Officer 4) Serial number of Graduates in the Basic military course shall be incorporated in respective ‘Transcript of Records’ to prevent loss, double usage, and expedite entry into Ready Reserve Units of the AFP; 5) Referenced from historical, political and constitutional grounds, the creation of a second ‘Office of the AFP Vice Chief of Staff for Reservists and Citizen Armed Force Development’. Current structure with a Deputy Chief of Staff for Reservist Affairs 0-J9, is a demoted office in contrast to the 1987 Constitution’s mandate to build-up a Citizen Armed Force. The error is in overlooking the

Constitutional Commissioners intent. Patent mistake is in RA 7077 Reservist Act, when the terms ‘Reservists’ and ‘Citizen Armed Force’ are similarly defined. The concept constricted with what should be the “Uniformed Reservist Army” as force multiplier, and an “Invisible Army” (non-uniformed), with the citizens themselves as institutionalized/trained guerilla fighters, doctors, engineers etc. when “State functions” cease to exist. Who & which office is responsible for preparing all Citizens to defend their homes, community and country? 6) Simplify Reservist requirements: a) Barangay & NBI Clearance b) Drug test c) G-2 clearance d) Health clearance from provincial hospitals or private doctors including signed waiver in favor of the AFP. Reservists volunteer talent, finances, logistics, & networking, why not their health? 7) Amend RA 10121 NDRRMC Law, Sec. 12. The LDRR-MOs & BDRRMCs shall organize & train volunteer Reservist Units under supervision by local Army RCDGs, CDCs, etc., so overnight, human assistance and disaster response, plus security is addressed. Etc.

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A POINT OF AWARENESS

By PRECIOSA S. SOLIVEN

A pledge to duty, honor, country and God



(Part I)

Almost daily we see President Rodrigo Duterte addressing battalions of Filipino soldiers all over the country. His other obsession is to do away with drug addicts and drug lords. He promised both soldiers and policemen a salary increase and yearend bonus. Lately it was officially announced that there's no funding for this. I wonder to whom these combat personnel owe final allegiance to, with endless extra judicial killings, the president – or to God.

The American Caesar

The three great men of the US Military Academy (USMA) at West Point, New York are honored by their alma mater by placing their handsome bronze effigies in strategic places of the campus. Gen. Patton stands in front of the old Gothic Library building. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, with his famous commander's visor cap, ray-ban glasses and corn-on-the-cob pipe, stand outside the Gothic castle – like fortress barracks viewing the daily activities of the corps of cadets. This former Superintendent of West Point more than once flouted academy rules.

During MacArthur's yearling year, his name was mentioned in an inquiry into a reveille gun antic. On the night of April 16, 1901, several members of the corps moved the cannon to the superintendent's lawn and pointed the muzzle at the front door. Nothing was proved against Douglas and he escaped discipline. William Manchester in his book, *American Caesar, Douglas MacArthur 1880-1964*, describes him as "a great thundering paradox of a man, noble and ignoble, inspiring and outrageous, arrogant and shy, the best of men and the worst of men, the most protean, most ridiculous and most sublime."

His strength of character is traceable to his dynamic grandfather, Judge Arthur MacArthur Sr. who was a member of the Supreme Court of Washington, D.C. for 18 years. Douglas would spend his holidays in the Washington residence of his grandfather where, as an impressionable adolescent, he witnessed an endless parade of powerful, frock-coated men who called to confer with the old man. Industrialists, professors, congressmen, senators, cabinet members, Supreme Court justices.

Douglas' father, Arthur MacArthur, Jr., was a military officer, an Annapolis Naval Academy graduate. Both the range of his knowledge and the isolation of his years on the frontier are important to an understanding of his immense influence on his children. Douglas eventually inherited over 4,000 books from his father. From him and them he acquired "a remarkable vocabulary, a mastery of Victorian prose, a love of neo-Augustan rhetoric, and a ready grasp of theory. From their father they learned consecration to duty. Their mother, an Episcopalian, taught them devotion. Both parents believed in absolute triumph over all obstacles, a concept which was more realistic then than now."

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B.Gen. Arthur MacArthur named military governor of Manila

Cuba fell in July 1898, and on August 4, Brigadier General Arthur MacArthur Jr. led 4,800 volunteers ashore at Cavite, south of Manila. They were the spearhead of an 11,000-man expeditionary force commanded by Major General Wesley Merritt (USMA superintendent, 1882-1887), which with their allies, Filipino rebels commanded by Emilio Aguinaldo immediately occupied the capital. When the Spanish captain-general capitulated nine days later – US casualties had been 13 killed and 57 wounded – Merritt praised the “outstanding” work of the striking force and the gallantry and excellent judgment” of his brigadier.

He then named Arthur provost marshal general and military governor of Manila, an appointment which was received with vast pride by the MacArthur family, including ensign Arthur III, who had fought on the gunboat Vixen at Santiago and who was now stationed on a warship off Luzon.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, chosen architect of Philippines’ defense by President Quezon to prepare for Independence

On November 15, 1935, the Philippine Commonwealth was inaugurated with Manuel L. Quezon as the first elected president. Quezon convinced then

Gen. Douglas MacArthur to build the country’s defense forces. MacArthur had just retired as US Army Chief of Staff, and as the chosen architect of the Philippines’ defense system, he was conferred the rank of Field Marshal by President Quezon. MacArthur brought along two outstanding young US Army officers – Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major James Ord to assist him.

Later, Navy Lt. Sidney Huff joined MacArthur’s staff as naval adviser. Together, they formulated the National Defense Act, also known as Commonwealth Act No. 1, the first law passed by the Commonwealth legislature. This included Special Orders No. 121 of the Commonwealth Army Headquarters, which instituted the four-year curriculum of the PMA to train future officers of the Philippine Army.

The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) dubbed the ‘West Point’ of the Philippines

Briefly, the defense concept as embodied in this Act was patterned after the Citizen army system of conscription to Switzerland. The Philippines was divided into 10 military areas. Each area was to train in its respective training cadres about 4,000 trainees a year.

A small regular force, initially from the constabulary was charged with the training program. To provide for training of future regular officers in considerable number, the Constabulary Academy at Camp Allen in Baguio was moved to a more suitable area at Forbes Park, also in Baguio, and expanded to the Philippine Military Academy, designed to adopt the West Point curriculum.

The PMA was expected to open in June 1936 under a four-year course, replacing the three-year curriculum of the old Constabulary Academy. To supplement the ground forces, a naval-branch-to-be, called the Off Shore Patrol (OSP), would be organized. The OSP was expected to be able to man, during the next 10 years, a fleet of about 50 fast, motor torpedo boats similar to those of the British Navy.

An air branch was also provided for with a projected strength of about 250 planes after the termination of the Commonwealth period. By 1946, when the Philippines was expected to become independent, the government would have trained about 400,000 men – good for 40 divisions.

According to Commodore Ramon Alcaraz, one of the first PMA graduates of 1940, he and 199 other successful examinees were appointed as cadets of the PMA under Major General Paulino S. Santos, Chief of Staff of the Army of the Commonwealth of the Philippines effective June 15, 1936.

Among the first graduate of the PCA, founded by Brig. Gen. Henry T. Allen were Minor L. Stephens, Williams Doser and Dorr Malone. Later, it was opened for qualified Filipino cadets and among the first to graduate were Jose P. Misa, Jose Velasquez and Mauro Arlegui. It was transferred later to Baguio at Camp Henry T. Allen (named after its founder who belongs to USMA Class 1882).

Among former PC Chiefs who were graduates of West Point that influenced PCA were Brig. Gen. Harry H. Brandoltz, Class 1890 and Brig. Gen. Rafael Crame, the first Filipino to become PC chief from 1971 to 1972. One of the first Filipinos to graduate from West Point was Brig. Gen. Vicente Lim who was a classmate of Gen. Eisenhower, Class 1914. The tradition of sending the most outstanding plebes at PMA to the US service academies at West Point and Annapolis started in 1937.

The 3 hallowed words that reverently dictate what you ought to be

When Japan attacked, he led us back to victory. . . When Korea exploded, we turned to him again. . . To this day there are those who think he was a dangerous demagogue and others who say he was one of the greatest men who ever lived. Addressing a thousand US Military graduates of West Point, Gen. Douglas MacArthur stated “The long gray line has never failed those thundering magic words: Duty, Honor, Country. We are not warmongers but soldiers in search for peace ready to suffer the deepest wounds of war. From your ranks come the great captains who will hold the nation’s destiny in their hands the moment war comes in sound.”

(Part II – “Filipinos at West Point”)

(For feedback email to precious.solliven@yahoo.com)

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

ONLINE NEWS 22 DECEMBER 2016

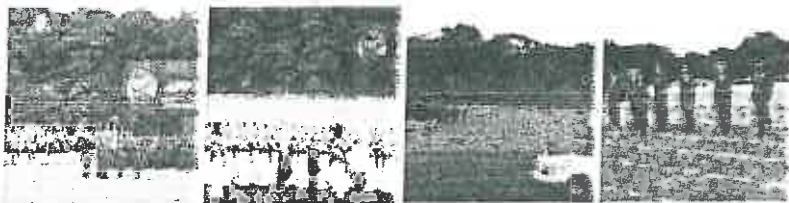
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AFP 81st Anniversary | Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Change

Alvin Santiago

CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines is celebrated its 81st Founding Anniversary with the theme: "Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Change."

The event was very simple but meaningful and manifested the AFP's gratitude to the Filipino people and its readiness to serve with pride as a partner in peace, security, and nation-building.



President and AFP Commander-in-Chief GenRodrigo Roa Duterte served as the Guest of Honor and Speakers. A Parade and Review was given thw Chief Executive at the General Headquarters Grandstand at Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

AFP Chief of Staff Lt Gen Eduardo Ano led the main program with an awarding ceremony that recognized soldiers who accomplished great feats in the various areas of military service. This included two Outstanding Achievement Medals, One Distinguished Conduct Star, and two Gold Corss Medals, among others.

"We dedicate our efforts today to the Filipino people we have sworn to serve and protect, and this we have done each year with dedication and pride, as it is a fact that only with their unyielding support that we as an institution came to where we are now," Lt Gen Ano added. **AES / ALS / MCAG / RTVM**

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

COL NESTOR B BAUTISTA O-92233 (PA) Ret

Outstanding Achievement Medal (OAM) – For extraordinary and distinguished service rendered as host to the Philippine-Australia Defense Cooperation Program scholars comprised of a total of 535 Officers, Enlisted Personnel, cadets and civilian employees who underwent the Australian Familiarization Course at Royal Australian Air Force Base, Laverton from 28 March 2005 to 19 March 2016 . Their most welcomed gesture of cooperation and voluntary services, coupled with their priceless gift of friendship were truly endearing to the countless AFP-DND personnel whose lives were greatly touched and enhanced by them.

MAJ DENNIS G GUILLERMO O-13291 PA

Outstanding Achievement Medal (OAM) – For extraordinary and distinguished service rendered as Project Officer of the joint intelligence operation that resulted to the successful neutralization of three (3) members of Maute and Tokboy Groups responsible in the Davao City Market Bombing and the recovery of high-powered firearms and different materials for Improvised Explosive Device.

LTJG REGINALD M BALIDOC O-16508 PN

Distinguished Conduct Star (DCS) – For acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry in the face of an armed enemy during an encounter against more or less 50 Foreign and Local Terrorist Organization members under Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute at the Ragayan, Butig Lanao Del Sur that inflicted heavy casualties to the enemy thereby showcasing extreme stability under fire and keeping up with the finest traditions of Filipino soldiery.

1LT JAY L MARAVILLA O-16409 PA

Gold Cross – For gallantry in action during an encounter against more or less 100 fully armed Abu Sayyaf Group who were involved in several high-profile kidnappings at SitiolMakaita, BrgyBungkaong, Patikul, Sulu that inflicted heavy casualties to the enemy and recovery of numerous war materials through superb combat leadership and tactical acumen.

Cpl Felipe C Barbadillo 871275 PN (M)

Gold Cross – For gallantry in action while serving as the Lead Sniper of Special Operations Platoon of Marine Battalion Landing Team-6 tasked as main effort to conduct law enforcement patrol to neutralize the armed group of JaafarSabiwangMaguid, a local terrorists believed to be linked with the foreign terrorist group ISIS at Sinapingan, BrgyButrilPalimbang, Sultan Kudarat

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

AWARDING CEREMONY | 1st PRRD Fellowship Golf Tournament

Alvin Santiago



AFP General Headquarters, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City (DWDD) – President Rodrigo Roa Duterte reignited his support to both the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the fight against crime and corruption during the awarding ceremony of the 1st PRRD Fellowship Golf Tournament at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The President specified illegal drugs and armed rebels as the major problems faced by the country. He presented a thick ream of paper and said that it contains the list of politicians (from local government leaders to major legislators) as well as private individuals and government law enforcers involved in the illegal drug trade.



President Duterte also spoke about the armed insurgents in Mindanao and said that having a federal type of government will appease the root of the problem: Moro nationalism. He also warned that the switch to federalism must be studied carefully to avoid such pitfalls, such as the purely parliamentary system of the United Kingdom that limits the power of the country's leader especially in responding to crises.

He also reiterated the administration's investment of one billion pesos to purchase medicine for people with medical receipts but are in need of money. The President added that he hoped to continue this project next year by allocating resources from the 2017 budget.

President Duterte also spoke about his plans against "endo" or contractual employment and said that education becomes futile without a stable job. He added, "We have to improve the economy. I have to improve the country."

The President also gave his support on family planning and said that it is a practical way of managing the population to a stable level.

Before his speech, the President led the awarding ceremony of the golf tournament. The Philippine Army (PA) Team 1, led by Lt. Gen. Glorioso Miranda, was awarded the champion's cup and PhP 300,000.

The 1st PRRD Fellowship Golf Tournament was hosted by the PNP and the AFP in an effort to solidify ties between the two and encourage recreation through competition. RTVM / MCAG

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

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/>

AFP chief Año cites solid peace gains as military celebrates 81st founding anniversary

By Priam F. Nepomuceno

MANILA, Dec. 21 (PNA) -- As the Armed Forces of the Philippines celebrates its 81st founding anniversary Wednesday, AFP chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Eduardo Año said the military has made solid gains in winning the peace and preserving strong alliances.

"In the area of internal security, to-date, 71 provinces are now Conflict-Manageable and Ready for Further Development, with six more provinces declared in 2016, namely: Agusan Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur, Agusan Del Sur, Compostela Valley, Quezon Province and Occidental Mindoro," he said.

The AFP chief also said the impact of Internal Peace Security Program "Bayanihan" was felt across the Philippines islands, as the whole-of-nation approach to the challenge of winning the peace has forged dynamic partnerships to enable far-flung and indigenous communities.

The latter aims to "provide the strategic guidance in the performance of (the AFP's) mandated functions of protecting the state and the people. It shall help AFP units in planning for and contributing to the attainment of internal peace and security," he said.

"Bayanihan" was first implemented on Dec. 22, 2010 and is scheduled to end this year.

"Momentum is our side and we are setting our sights on doing more in the days ahead. With the AFP's track record over the last eight decades, the current and future goals can only mean good things for our country and our people," Año said. (PNA)

LG/PFN

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

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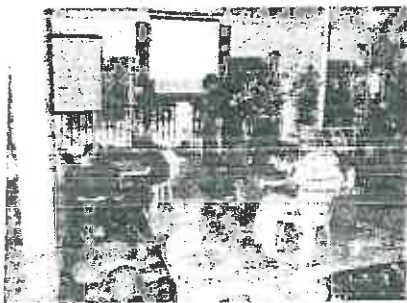
AFP AT 81 | 403Bde shares the joy of Christmas

Lui Claudio



IMPALAMBONG, Malaybalay City — The 403rd Infantry (Peacemaker) Brigade commemorated the Armed Forces of the Philippines' 81st Founding Anniversary by sharing the Christmas joy with the children of BCT Elementary School in Barangay Impalambong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon yesterday, December 20, 2016.

Together with Jollibee Malaybalay City Branch, the 403Bde conducted a Christmas Party for 64 kindergarten pupils of BCT Elementary School in commemoration of the AFP anniversary which was highlighted with the giving of toys, food sharing, mascot show, and parlor games — simple activity that has definitely marked a beautiful and unforgettable memory for the kids.



The activity ended before lunch after the Christmas message of Col Eric C Vinoya, 403Bde Commander, wherein he said, "I would like to thank everyone for making this Christmas activity happier and merrier than ever for our children. This is how we always wanted to celebrate the AFP anniversary — to celebrate it with the people whom we dedicate our service. May our Anniversary and the Christmas celebration always remind us of its message that Peace, Unity, and Solidarity shall reign in our hearts. God bless, and Happy 81st Anniversary to our AFP, and Merry Christmas to everyone."

Just a day before this activity on December 19, 2016, the 403rd Infantry Brigade conducted a bloodletting activity inside its Headquarters in coordination with the Philippine Red Cross in Malaybalay City. A total of 9,000cc of assorted types of blood were donated by its soldiers that shall benefit the patients in nearby hospitals in Bukidnon.

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

www.retiredanalyst.blogspot.com

3 courageous troopers awarded with major military medals during AFP's 81st founding anniversary

Philippine News Agency

For demonstrating courage and gallantry in combat, three military personnel were conferred with three major medals during the 81st founding anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Wednesday.

These men were Lt. (JG) Reginald M. Balidoc, of the Philippine Navy; 1st Lt. Jay L. Maravilla, of the Philippine Army; and Cpl. Felipe C. Barbadillo, of the Philippine Marine Corps.

They were decorated by President Rodrigo Duterte during Wednesday's awarding ceremonies. He was assisted Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Balidoc was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Star while Maravilla and Barbadillo were both given the Gold Cross Medal.

The former, who is a member of the Navy Special Operations Group and a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 2011, was given the Distinguished Conduct Star for "acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry in the face of an armed enemy during an encounter against more or less 50 foreign and local terrorist organization members under Omarkhayam and Abdullah Maute at the Ragayan, Butig, Lanao Del Sur on Feb. 25, 2016 that inflicted heavy casualties to the enemy thereby showcasing extreme stability under fire and keeping up with the finest traditions of Filipino soldiery."

Balidoc is also the team leader of Naval Special Operations Unit-8.

The Distinguished Conduct Star is given to military personnel of the AFP for singular/personal acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry in the face of armed enemy.

Maravilla, a Bachelor of Science of Biology graduate, was conferred the Gold Cross Medal, "for gallantry in action during an encounter against more or less 100 fully armed Abu Sayyaf Group who were involved in several high-profile kidnappings at Sitio Makaita, Barangay Bungaong, Patikul, Sulu last Aug. 26, 2016 that inflicted heavy casualties to the enemy and recovery of numerous war materiel through superb combat leadership and tactical acumen."

The Gold Cross Medal is usually handed to military personnel of the AFP for singular/personal acts of gallantry in action not warranting the award of the Distinguished Conduct Star.

Barbadillo was also given this medal for gallantry in action while serving as the leading sniper of the Special Operations Platoon of the Marine Landing Team-6 tasked as main effort to conduct law enforcement patrol to neutralize the armed group of Jaafar Sabiwang Maguid, a local terrorist believed to be linked with the foreign terrorist group ISIS at Sinapingan, Barangay Butril Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat last Nov. 26, 2015.

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

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AVP CATEGORY | PSG bags 2nd place at the AFP Photo Contest

Lui Claudio



CAMP GEN EMILIO AGUINALDO, Quezon City (DWDD) – The Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations (J7), AFP Public Affairs Office (AFP-PAO) and Lente Images Philippines Inc. held the awarding ceremony for the AFP@81 Photo Contest.

The Awarding Ceremony was held at the Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC) in Camp Gen Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, yesterday, December 20, 2016.

The Theme for this year's celebration: **AFP at 81 "Conquering Challenges, Harnessing Change"**

At the Audio Visual Presentation (AVP) category the Presidential Security Group (PSG) won 2nd place. On the other hand, the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) bags the first place.

www.interaksyon.com/national

'Spend Christmas with your families,' Duterte urges rebels

By: InterAksyon.com

December 21, 2016 5:37 PM



MANILA, Philippines -- President Rodrigo Duterte urged fighters of the New People's Army, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Moro National Liberation Front to come down from the hills and spend the holidays with their families as he guaranteed their safety.

Speaking at the 81st founding anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Duterte also declared ceasefires for Christmas -- from December 23 to 27 -- and New Year's --from December 31 to January 2 or 3, "*depende na lang po sa* (depending on the) response from those whom we wish to embrace as brothers."

However, he said, there would be no letup in operations against criminal and local or foreign terrorist groups, specifically mentioning the Abu Sayyaf and the Maute Group.

The government and communist rebels actually have separate unilateral ceasefires in place, declared to mark the resumption of formal peace negotiations in August. However, efforts to forge a bilateral ceasefire agreement have hit snags over the continued detention of more than 400 political prisoners and what the rebels claim are continued counterinsurgency operations and human rights violations by the military.

Duterte asked the NPA to "leave your arms where they are and you can come down" and visit their families "*at kung magsalubong kayo ng sundalo ... magkamay na lang kayo o 'pag ayaw mo, huwag mo na lang tingnan* (and if you happen to meet a soldier ... just shake hands or, if you don't want to, don't look at him)."

As for the MILF and MNLF, he invited them to do the same saying "we would like you to share the moment with us" even if Christmas is a Christian celebration.

Duterte said the talks with the communists were "going well," disclosing he talked to Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison "the other night," adding that he hoped the intelligence services "listened carefully" lest he become the subject of intrigue for making concessions to the rebels.

But while saying "*nakakatamad mag-away ng Pasko* (it is wearisome to be fighting on Christmas)," for terror and criminal groups like the Maute, which he accused of the recent burning of buses in Mindanao, he vowed there would be "no quarters given, no quarters asked."